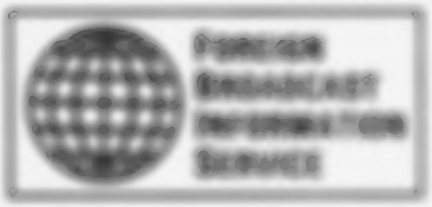

Daily Report

Latin America

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Latin America

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Commonwealth To Call on Caricom 'Expertise' on South Africa

FL2110142693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1225 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Limmasol, Cyprus, 21 Oct, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries at this week's Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in Cyprus will be asked to perform wide ranging roles in the build up to and following next April's historic multiracial elections in South Africa.

"Now that the Commonwealth is planning another phase of its mission (to South Africa) I'm sure the Caribbean will play an important role by providing some of the expertise that will be required, be it in the electoral field, of human resource development or the field of policing policy review," said Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku ahead of Thursday's official opening of the conference.

"These areas of needs" he added, "will become clearer in the course of discussions here over the next few days." Chief Emeka praised the Caribbean's active participation in earlier Commonwealth missions that helped establish the transitional executive council to oversee the programme towards South Africa's first nonracial elections. "Senator Mitchell of the Bahamas was there until the earlier part of this year," he recalled.

The heads of government of the Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinindad and Tobago are among the 36 leaders attending the conference.

Barbados is being represented at the ministerial level and Antigua and Barbuda at the ambassadorial level.

Prime Mininster Eugenia Charles of Dominica and P.J. Patterson of Jamaica have been chosen among the six leaders to address Thursday's formal opening ceremony. The Caribbean will also take part in a special ministerial meeting on small states Sunday.

Chief Emeka said the ministerial meeting, "will consider the special development and security needs of small states, as well as the environmental concerns which will be the centre point of next year's global conference on sustainable development of small island states in Barbados. The Commonwealth will be providing technical assistance both to Barbados and to the region in so far as the preparation for the conference is concerned," Chief Emeka added.

Caribbean Urges GATT Recognition of Preferential Deals

FL2310021493 Bridgetown CANA in English 2140 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Report by Kendol Morgan]

[Text] Limassol, Cyprus, 22 Oct, CANA—Caribbean heads of government joined other Commonwealth leaders Friday in a unanimous vote to use the 50-member body to press for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), by the December 15 deadline.

But the Caribbean is pressing to have the GATT agreement recognise international treaties such as Lome which provides preferential trading arrangements for Caribbean banana and sugar exports to Europe.

"I pointed out that our particular concern is the recognition of the Lome Convention within the framework of the GATT," Prime Minister James Mitchell of St. Vincent told CANA after he presented the Caribbean's position at Friday's plenary session of the biennial Commonwealth Summit in Cyprus.

"We want to ensure that our Commonwealth partners who have a role in the relationship between the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP), and the European countries, and who are also in the GATT, support us with our concerns on banana," Mitchell said.

The Commonwealth leaders decided that with only 55 days before the December 15 deadline for GATT negotiations expires, the Commonwealth should dispatch a ministerial mission to selected capitals to, "call on key participants to negotiate positively and flexibly to reach final agreement." The leaders mounted a team which included the leaders of Britain, Australia, Singapore, and Prime Minister P.J. Patterson of Jamaica to announced this decision.

Britain's John Major said the Commonwealth is campaigning for, "free trade, economic growth, and jobs, and is opposed to protectionism, slump, and unemployment." He said the mission, whose members will be chosen at a weekend informal retreat by the leaders, will impress on countries to accept "compromises that are even painful to the national interest." But Prime Minister Patterson said the Caribbean considered the terms of the final draft to be just as important as the timing.

"We therefore are very concerned that the interest of the developing countries be not overlooked and that the final agreement is balanced and equitable and...that developing countries are not asked to give up more than they will receive by the potential benefits which will flow," Patterson said.

The Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations, now into its seventh year, is seeking international agreement on rules and marketing access for industrial goods, agriculture, and trade in services.

In the agriculture negotiations, Latin American banana producers are lobbying the GATT to overturn preferential trading arrangements for Caribbean banana exports to Europe. The arrangements fall under the Lome Convention signed by European Community and African,

Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) states. The Commonwealth agreement suggests the leaders have become sensitive to the Caribbean concerns.

"The resolution acknowledges the necessity to ensure that the GATT agreement takes into full account the international treaties already in place," Patterson said.

Sandiford, Patterson, Manning Named Delegates to EEC

FL2410233693 Bridgetown CANA in English 2219 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Report by Kendol Morgan]

[Text] Limmassol, Cyprus, 24 Oct 24, CANA—Three prime ministers have been named to 10-member Caribbean Community (Caricom) mission for high level economic and trade talks with the European Economic Community (EEC) this week in Brussels. The major talking point on the agenda is the troubled banana industry.

"We'll be looking more at the diversification effort and how the EEC can work together with us in the diversification process," Caricom Secretary General Edwin Carrington told CANA. This was in reference to an offer by the EEC to help the banana-dependent economies of the Windward Islands, in particulaar to find alternative economic activities before the current Lome Agreement expires in 2000.

Carrington said incoming Caricom chairman, Vincentian Prime Minister James Mitchell, Dominica Prime Minister Dame Eugenia Charles, and Grenada's Prime Minister Nicholas Braithwaite will lead the team for the October 25-28 talks.

The mission also includes Trinidad and Tobago's Foreign Minister Ralph Maraj, minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jamaica Ben Clarr, Senator Michael Pilgrim of St. Lucia, Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) director general Dr. Vaughn Lewis, head of the EEC programming unit epercival Marie and his Deupty Renso Hurrera, and the Caricom secretary general.

The 10 are members of Caribbean delegations to the 19th Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference which ends Monday in Cyprus.

The mission is the first mounted by a special committee set up by Caricom heads at their July summit in The Bahamas to deal with international economic relations. That committee comprises Prime Ministers Erskine Sandiford of Barbados, P.J. Patterson of Jamaica, Patrick Manning of Trinidad and Tobago and John Compton of St. Lucia, none of whom were available for this inaugural mission.

The discussions are expected to be held with European commission president jack delores and representatives of belgium, which holds the presidency of the European economic community. Lome guarantees market protection for caribbean banana exports against Competition from cheaper latin fruit.

The Caricom mission will also take a package of projects for approval under the regional programme of the Lome Convention. The EEC has allocated 90 million ECU's (120 million u.S dollars) under Lome IV, up from 73 million ECU's under Lome three. But the Dominican Republic and Haiti have been added to the thirteen Caricom member states and Suriname which participated in Lome III.

"The package of projects go over the 90 million ECU's," Carrington said, "and we'll be seeking a bit more, although we cannot be certain we'll get it". The team also has to demonstrate that the projects are regional in nature to secure EEC approval. Among the package are three tourism projects, and one each in transport and communication, agriculture, human resource development, and environmental protection. An undisclosed number has been held back for further study.

"For some of them the estimated costs were overstated by the country making the proposal. Others we felt could attract commercial funding because of their viability, and so did not need to Compete for this grant fund," Carrington said.

Representatives from the Dominican Republic and Suriname will join the Caricom delegation for this aspect of the talks. The Caricom mission will also hold preliminary discussions on next year's mid-term review of the current Lome Convention. The Convention runs for ten years, but financing was only negotiated for the first five years.

"We'll need to address the question of whether there'll be another Lome Convention. The disucssions will also have to take into consideration the expanding EEC vision of the Caribbean," the Caricom secretary general said. "EEC countries are believed to favour dealing with Latin America and the Caribbean as a single region, and this may change the Composition of the Caribbean segment of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) states, with whom the Lome Convention is signed," Carrington said.

The Caricom mission will hold technical meetings with the EEC from October 25-27 and a political meeting on October 28.

Czech Premier Concludes Trip to Americas

LD2210080393 Prague CTK in English 0707 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Cancun, 22 Oct (CTK)—Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus and his wife Livia left the Mexican resort city of Cancun for Bonn today, ending their week-long trip to the Americas.

During his visit to the United States, Guatemala and Mexico, Klaus met with U.S. Vice-President Al Gore,

Mexican President Carlos Salinas, Guatemalan Vice-President Artur Herbruger Asturias, as well as numerous businessmen and academics. Points he reiterated throughout his trip were that economic reform in the Czech Republic was farther along than in any other former communist country, and the necessity of free trade for the world.

Klaus began his visit October 14 in New York, where he addressed the Council for Foreign Relations and met with U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright. In Washington, D.C. he held talks with Vice-President Gore, gave two lectures on Czech economic transformation and met with leading representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

In Guatemala and the western Mexican city of Guadalajara, Klaus accepted honorary titles at universities and spoke about the general rules of economic reform.

In Cancun, Klaus attended a session of the International Chamber of Commerce and gave a speech outlining the differences between privatisation in the east and in the west.

*** Expert on Clinton's 'Very Active' Human Rights Policy**

94SM0012A Lima PERU ECONOMICO in Spanish XVI No. 9, Sep 93 pp 16-18

[Interview with Jorge Dominguez by Luis Pasara in Lima, date not given: "Latin America and Clinton: NAFTA, Democracy, Human Rights, and Cuba"]

[Text] Jorge Dominguez, who teaches at Harvard, is a leading specialist on Latin America. His recent visit to Lima to attend a meeting on Peru, organized by Inter-American Dialogue, made it possible for Luis Pasara to interview him on President Bill Clinton's policies toward the region.

[Pasara] How are relations between the United States and Latin America under the Clinton administration?

[Dominguez] The Clinton administration is in a curious situation: there is remarkable activity in its relations with Latin America but nobody believes it. The Bush administration designed this grand concept of the Initiative of the Americas, to arrive at the signing of the Free Trade Agreement with Mexico, but without any result. If one asked what the Bush government really accomplished with the Initiative of the Americas, the reply would have to be that he talked about it. He did not do anything. What happened with the Free Trade Agreement with Mexico? Yes, negotiations took place and it was finally signed, but it was done during the presidential campaign, as if it was a contribution to the President's reelection. This could have been a fatal complication for the ratification of the Agreement because there suddenly surged up from within the Democratic Party a great opposition to the Agreement.

[Pasara] What is the Clinton government doing with regard to NAFTA?

[Dominguez] It is trying to create the political conditions that will permit the ratification of the Agreement. Canada, Mexico, and the United States have just reached agreement on what are called parallel protocols, on the environment and on working conditions. Nevertheless, President Clinton's general political weakness and the opposition to the agreement inside the Democratic Party puts its ratification in danger. When the most important leaders of the Democratic Party in Congress are in opposition, there is an enormous political problem which perhaps cannot be solved. If Congress voted today, it would not be ratified. In a recently published article in THE WASHINGTON POST, the mastermind of the Clinton campaign argues for the President to make the decision not to continue his support for the Agreement, due to the fact that the political price Clinton would have to pay for ratification would be too high, with practically no political benefits.

[Pasara] Can it be assumed that NAFTA will not be passed?

[Dominguez] At present, it is unlikely that the agreement would be approved. But that Rubicon has not yet been crossed. There is a political argument that could persuade the President to commit himself fully and have the Agreement ratified. This is a President who, until now, has governed only with his party, and this is a new development in the United States: nobody has done it before. Clinton has become aware that this is very difficult, because the internal cohesion of the Democratic Party, although surprisingly good, is not perfect, the Republican Party's cohesion is greater. When Clinton's main program, the budget bill, is passed by only one vote in the House, and the Vice President's vote is needed to break the tie in the Senate, one sees a tremendous weakness. In this political situation, NAFTA gives President Clinton his first opportunity to create an alliance with an important group within the Republican Party, where the majority is favorable to the Agreement. This bridge between the Clinton administration and the Republican opposition could be used later on to pass other measures that could save the Clinton Presidency and even permit his reelection.

[Pasara] What is there besides NAFTA?

[Dominguez] Well, a very active policy with regard to Haiti to restore the constitutional government and president Aristide. There is an evolution in the policy toward Cuba that we can talk about in detail later on. There is genuine interest in promoting a policy of military balance among the Latin American countries, and therefore insistence that the Argentine government cancel the Condor missile program, and that the Tlatelolco Agreements on control of nuclear materials finally be ratified. There is another proposal, still under consideration, to find forms of trade cooperation with Argentina and Chile. And with regard to drug trafficking in the Andean region, a proposal to do away with the intrusive military presence in order to concentrate efforts on the fight against drug use in American society itself.

[Pasara] The policy on democracy and human rights is watched with interest in Peru.

[Dominguez] In this, there is a continuation of policy, as expressed in cases such as Haiti, Cuba, Peru, and Guatemala, where it was made clear, quickly and forcefully, that Washington was completely and openly opposed to then-President Serrano's self-coup, and that it would proceed to cancel all the programs of assistance. With regard to the Peruvian case, one of the first measures taken by the White House in 1993 was to appeal successfully to the IMF and the IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development] that they not proceed with what in Peru came to be called the country's international reinsertion. The United States insisted that the Peruvian Government comply with a series of measures to protect human rights and to return to a normal constitutional and democratic situation. It is important to keep in mind that, until then, the IMF and the IBRD had refused to go along with this type of request from Washington.

[Pasara] How are relations between the United States and Japan with regard to Peru?

[Dominguez] Tokyo reacted to the 5 April coup in an unusual way. Even with regard to Asian nations, Japan had always abstained from conditioning its economic relation on the other country's internal political situation. The Peruvian case is the first exception to that historic policy. Behind this exception, there is a coordinated policy between Washington and Tokyo that began under the Bush presidency and that continues under Clinton, and it also explains the conduct of the IMF and the IBRD.

[Pasara] Is there, then, an important and clearly understood policy on Latin America?

[Dominguez] There is no grand design or great discourse. President Clinton has not yet visited Latin America, nor has the Secretary of State.

[Pasara] And Clinton has received only two Latin American presidents.

[Dominguez] And that was because they repeatedly knocked on the door to be admitted. At that symbolic level, then, which is sometimes used to measure the degree of interest of a United States government, the grade is zero.

[Pasara] But at that level it has often been "lip service."

[Dominguez] It was often "lip service." But I prefer a government that acts to a government that makes beautiful speeches, with no consequences. The policy of the Clinton administration with regard to Latin America, while one might disagree on certain aspects, is remarkable and consistent, not only on economic issues, but on military themes and on political themes, such as democracy and human rights. What has been done so far gives us an idea of what will probably follow.

[Pasara] Let us look at Cuba.

[Dominguez] According to statements by the U.S. Government, U.S. policy with regard to Cuba has not changed. In fact, it is evident that it is changing, and the obstinate insistence of officials of the Clinton administration that nothing is changing is surprising. Several things are happening. Among the most obvious, there is a new project to facilitate telephone service with Cuba, which had already been announced and which is what the Cuban Government had requested: that both countries have a normal, commercial, telephone relationship. Two discussions have taken place between Washington and Havana on migration in a very professional—almost cordial—manner, that was not there before. For the first time since the 1970's, discussions have taken place between the Coast Guards of both countries on their work practices and on possibilities for cooperation. And something which had not happened since 1959 and took place during this Northern spring is that a U.S. military officer from the base in Guantanamo, under the orders of the base commander, contacted his counterpart on the Cuban side to hand over prior notification of certain details of maneuvers that the U.S. Navy regularly carries out. The Cuban side has taken note of the fact that no military secrets were communicated, but that it is a totally new political signal. Finally, in May 1993, the Secretary of State said that Cuba has nothing to fear from a possible military threat from the United States. This kind of statement has been made before, but in the context of U.S. and Soviet relations. This was a unilateral statement.

[Pasara] This is a commitment made not to Moscow, but to Havana?

[Dominguez] Exactly. There is something else. On 9 June, the Department of State announced that the United States was fully committed to complying with its neutrality laws and that whoever tries to leave southern Florida to launch a military attack on Cuba will be arrested and tried. And the FBI has revived its activity in that regard, in order to make clear that it is not only an announcement.

[Pasara] Then there is a change of policy on Cuba.

[Dominguez] If this series of measures is taken together, I would say that there is a change in policy, not spelled out or verbalized, but real. The Clinton administration should make this change public, so that Castro can no longer use the fear of invasion as the only card he has left to mobilize political support. Clinton does not do so for fear that there might still be internal political resistance to something that would be understood as favorable to the Castro government when, really, it would undermine his only political base.

Five Countries Seek To Enhance Paraguay-Parana Waterway

PY2110233293 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 8 Oct 93 p A13

[Text] Santa Cruz, 7 Oct—Seeking to resume the political commitment of invigorating the river transport project via the Paraguay-Parana waterway, technical commissions from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay have designed the rules, evaluated the development of relations with financial institutions, and planned the activities of the intergovernmental committee.

Representatives from the five foreign ministries yesterday signed the Declaration of the 12th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Paraguay-Parana Waterway, after three working meetings at the Hotel Los Tajibos in this capital.

Victor Rico, Bolivian under secretary for multilateral and integration policy, said: "During the past two years the committee did not have the same dynamism as in the beginning. In this meeting we resumed actions and a set

of works has been programmed. We decided to meet more often, considering that the last meeting was held in Asuncion six months ago."

Rico said the 12th meeting prompted the most important result: to renew and strengthen the political support of the five countries' governments for the Paraguay-Parana waterway project.

He added that they are trying to resolve difficulties like the lack of regular meetings and the problems with financial institutions such as the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] and the UNDP [UN Development Program]. He explained that the program initiated four years ago had an interesting initial stage that resulted in the signing of the River Transport Agreement and the technical cooperation agreement with the IDB two years ago in Las Lenas, Argentina. He said: "The renewal of the political commitment and other agreements will be submitted for consideration by the foreign ministers of our countries at the next Rio Group meeting. Some agreements on the waterways probably will emerge in Santiago."

In the presence of Jesus Gonzalez, secretary of the intergovernmental committee, the representatives of the foreign ministries of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay last night signed the Declaration of the 12th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Paraguay-Parana Waterway. Its most important decisions include the approval of some additional rules to the River Transport Agreement, such as the distribution of convoys and verifications. The agreement was submitted for consideration by the committee and a decision was made to discuss the environmental issue in a broader manner.

Cuba

Fidel Castro Receives U.S. Visitors

FL2210213293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro met with the U.S. delegation headed by distinguished actor and comedian (Irwin Corey) and (Leslie Kagan), director of the project of information on Cuba in New York. The delegation conversed with our highest leader in a warm and fraternal atmosphere. Sergio Corrieri, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples, Georgina Chabau, of the international department of the Central Committee, and Sergio Lopez Briel, director of North America of the ICAP, were also present at the meeting.

This group from the Cuba-U.S. Medical Project was the fourth to visit our country and was the bearer of a valuable donation of medicines.

Castro Meets U.S. 'Workers World Party' Officials

FL2510001793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz met with a delegation from the Workers World Party [preceding name in English] [el partido Mundo Obrero] of the United States. The delegation was headed by the party's secretary general, Comrade (Sam Marcy). The meeting between the two leaders unfolded in a warm atmosphere of friendship. (Deidre Griswold Tap), (Larry Holmes), (Gloria Larriva), and (Sharon Elms), all members of the Central Committee of the Workers World Party, also participated in the meeting.

Comrades Pedro Ross Leal, who is a Politburo member; Jose Arbesu and Mario Medina [name as heard], of the International Relations Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [position as heard] also participated in the fraternal meeting.

Commentator Terms Trading With the Enemy Act 'Obsolete'

FL2210150693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] Thirty years ago, the U.S. Congress passed a law characterizing trade with and travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens as crimes punishable with up to 10 years in prison and with fines of up to $250,000. A true war terminology was used to describe the law: trading with the enemy.

In the face of the prospects of such stiff punishments in an atmosphere of extreme tensions and amid a Cold War that at times became quite hot, it was understandable that the average U.S. citizen opted for obeying the law. Except for journalists or scientists who were invited to attend a congress, U.S. citizens simply did not come to Cuba.

Things have changed now. One can no longer argue that in light of its military ties with the Soviet Union, Cuba is a potential threat to U.S. security. The Soviet Union does not even exist any more, and Moscow has decided to withdraw its remaining soldiers from Cuba. If an opinion poll were conducted among U.S. citizens, only fools and malicious respondents could regard Cuba as a threat to the mightiest military power on earth. As average U.S. citizens are no fools, many of them have begun to ignore an obsolete Cold War law. Sometimes using a triangular operation and sometimes acting openly, they have begun to travel to Cuba, thus reasserting their constitutional rights.

Upon returning to their country, they have been subjected to such harassment by the U.S. Immigration Service as confiscation of T-shirts by U.S. Customs and the confiscation of some passports. It appears, however, that no district attorney has dared press charges against these U.S. citizens based on an old law, which is a product of another time, which is today being questioned not only for being unjust, but also for being a Cold War remnant that no longer instills fear in anyone.

Regarding trade—despite the Torricelli Law, to which we do not want to devote a single line—there is rising interest among U.S. businessmen in acquiring information about business opportunities in Cuba. A press report today states that Arab-American businessmen, that is, U.S. citizens of Arab descent, will meet in Havana next week to explore the possibility of engaging in joint (?undertakings).

Washington's pressures against poor countries like Honduras to refrain from doing business with Cuba are increasingly sounding like outdated ideological-political arguments and are meriting less attention. Chilean investors and bankers are sponsoring an open exposition to be held in Santiago, Chile, by the end of this month to outline the potential advantages of the Cuban market and [words indistinct].

Thus, these laws that life has rendered obsolete have simply fallen completely out of grace and are being defied accordingly, or are being simply ignored.

Havana Reports on U.S.-PRC Trade Relations

FL2210230993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] A PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated that his country rejects new U.S. attempts to condition bilateral ties in trade matters, something that could obstruct the path toward the bilateral summit in Seattle. President William Clinton had said that next year he would link the extension of the treaty giving Beijing most-favored-nation status to the cessation of alleged

human rights violations. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said that the Clinton government still insists on these conditions in order to grant the extension.

EJT To Assume Havana Food Crop Responsibilities

FL2210154993 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The Youth Labor Army [EJT] will assume responsibility for 50 percent of the state lands in Havana Province devoted to growing tubers and vegetables. Twenty complete granges [granjas integrales] will be created. The young soldiers will settle on 29 installations, which could be either new-type camps, refurbished facilities [remoderados], or deactivated rural schools, according to today's GRANMA newspaper.

Among the most interesting of the tasks the EJT boys will carry out are the activities that depend on the rural community in which they happen to find themselves. They provide these communities with medical services and promote cultural activities there.

Agriculture Minister Alfredo Jordan said that he is confident these young combatants will do an outstanding job and that he trusts in their youth, physical strength, discipline, and revolutionary spirit.

Additional Self-Employment Activities Approved

FL2210230893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] According to Article No.4 of the joint resolution of the state committees for labor, social security, and finances, in which it is stated that the list of jobs in which self-employment is authorized could be reduced or increased according to the experience and situation of the country, the inclusion of the following activities has been approved: [operation of] carts pulled by smaller animals for infant use; tire accessory production; video operation; refrigerator paint and body repair; wine sales; parking attendants for bicycles and motorcycles; production of saddle pads, or saddle blankets; manufacture of floral wreaths; leather tanning; and artwork restoration.

The following self-employment activities are also included: plaster figure sales; podiatry; transport of cargo and personnel on tricycles and bicycles; traditional art sales; teaching of typing, music, art, and language; manufacture of soap, shoe polish, ink, rope, and similar products; manufacture of marble products; and used book sales.

Commentary Encourages New View of Tourism

FL2210233293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Commentary by journalist Luis Sexto]

[Text] Tourism must not be the ugly duckling of the Cuban economy. The nation should extirpate the remains of the pejorative view of tourism as a necessary evil. Along with other spheres, tourism is today part of the strategy laid out by the revolutionary government with a view to facing up to and overcoming the precarious economy of the special period.

For many years Cuba lived outside tourism. Involved with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, CEMA, the nation did not need to develop the tourist industry that in today's world comprises part of the income of numerous poor countries, and even of developed countries. Thus, for some 25 years, tourism, because it was not a necessary thing, also acquired the reputation of being an undesirable evil. Back then, the damage it could cause society in ideological and moral matters was taken into account.

Today, in the midst of unfavorable circumstances, with the trade advantages guaranteed by the extinct Soviet Union and the nonexistent socialist bloc lost, and with the U.S. blockade worsened, tourism becomes a main part of the Cuban economy.

Cuba is a tourism country. Cuba offers the visitor enviable and constant wealth in its beaches, its sun, its flora, its fauna, and so forth. Cuba offers the tourist the charms of a nature that is beautiful and almost unique, and the interest of an eminently original human and social landscape. Therefore, the nation cannot waive exporting services that it possesses to an inexhaustible degree—and even less so under circumstances and at a moment in history in which independence, the nation's very existence, and above all, its framework of social justice is at stake.

Tourism deserves to be approached in a positive manner. One should, in judging it, bear in mind that it is an industry conceived to add things. The tourist leaves us things; he takes nothing away; and by 1995, if the 30-percent annual growth is maintained, tourism is expected to produce some $1 billion.

The idea that tourists consume the population's foodstuffs is false and naive, if not ill-intentioned, as is the idea that tourism impedes the population's access to recreational facilities.

In the same way that no reasonable person would aspire to consume the merchandise destined for export because he knows that it is going to be exchanged for something even more necessary, no one should aspire to fighting tourism export services for a place to stay, because the income from these services reactivates other branches of the economy.

It is thus one's duty to be understanding. If a Cuban today aspires to lodging in a grand hotel, it is because the Revolution created aspirations for him that in other societies are prohibited to most workers.

The nation's few resources must be invested wherever they can reproduce, multiply. Even though subjected to the pressures of the crisis, the nation tries to minimize the population's sacrifice, and Intur [National Institute of Tourism] has plans to maintain a daily average of close to 3,350 rooms for Cuban tourism this year.

The tourist industry concerns us all. The key to tourism lies in getting the tourist to return to Cuba. The population as a whole will be working for tourism to the extent that the tourist is the target of our proverbial cordiality, and we will be more cordial if we look at tourism in a positive way and not blame it for material evils that depend on the overall economic situation, nor blame it for moral evils that are also dependent on the individual decision of a citizen who, dissatisfied with the minimum that Cuba can today guarantee its inhabitants, fans egotism and irrational ambitions at the bitter cost of his personal dignity.

Netherlands Businessmen End Talks, Seeking To Invest

FL2310030393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Netherlands and Cuban businessmen today concluded their talks in Havana with important agreements for our country. The talks were sponsored by the Netherlands and Cuban Chambers of Commerce.

For nearly one week, the two sides discussed ways to invest in and cooperate with Cuba in projects falling within the areas of computers, ports, and tourism, just to mention some sectors. Mr. (Bilders), president of the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce, has stated that this has been his most productive business trip to Cuba.

[Begin (Bilders) recording in English with superimposed translation into Spanish] This has been my fourth visit to your beautiful country and it has also been the most successful one. When I was here five years ago, one was able to meet with ministers, but it was rather a bureaucratic meeting. This attitude is changing and ministers are working to develop the economy, to make it more open, and free.

Among other topics, we discussed foreign trade, agriculture, and tourism. The idea is to cooperate. During the bilateral talks, we discussed the signing of a treaty for the protection of bilateral investments such as the one signed earlier with Italy.

Technical assistance to the Jose Marti Airport is another project discussed. [end recording]

It was agreed during the talks that the Netherlands would cooperate in repairing Cuban trains, that Netherlands agricultural companies would train Cuban experts, and that the Cuban sea fleet would be reactivated through the involvement of Netherlands businessmen.

Sugar Industry Minister Discusses Upcoming Harvest

FL2310145493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Sugar Industry Minister Nelson Torres has affirmed that the great reserve of sugar of the next harvest lies in observing rigorous technological discipline [sentence as heard]. Torres, who is also a member of the Politburo, said that to prevent the loss of a single grain of sugar is a matter of principle, and especially when such a loss might be caused by violations. He added that along with cane recovery, maximum priority is being given to the preparations for starting the harvest in time and with the greatest possible efficiency and to being able to finish forming the basic agricultural-livestock production units [description of units as heard] in time.

All the above was stressed in Bayamo during a meeting that analyzed the cane recovery situation and other basic tasks of the cane sector in Granma Province.

Mario Rodriguez Meets With Indonesian Foreign Minister

FL2310192593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1702 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Indonesia's firm rejection of the U.S. blockade against Cuba was reiterated today, when Foreign Minister Ali Alatas received Foreign Vice Minister Mario Rodriguez [title as heard], who is in Djakarta on an official visit. Discussed during the meeting were matters of bilateral interest, as well as other international subjects of bilateral interest, as well as others having to do with the movement of nonaligned countries, of which Indonesia is the current president. [sentence as heard]

Rodriguez visited the headquarters of ASEAN, where he was received by the association's secretary general, (Datoa Sikh Singh), with whom he analyzed the possibilities for cooperation between our country and the said regional organization, which has a free trade zone.

Rodriguez has visited Japan, China, the DPRK, the Philippines, and Indonesia as part of his Asian tour, which includes Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.

PCC Begins Provincial Assembly in Havana Province

FL2510005093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The Provincial Assembly of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] in Havana Province began this morning at the Antonio Maceo Interservice School in Caimito Municipality. The delegates are analyzing a number of pertinent topics, among them the recovery in cane and cattle raising, the formation of the UBPC's [Basic Cooperative Production Units], and the struggle against economic crimes. Marisela Escoto has more details.

Havana Province's Communists are today holding, at the FAR's [Revolutionary Armed Forces'] Major General Antonio Maceo Interservice School, this year's assembly for assessing, renewing [renovacion], and ratifying mandates. At this important meeting, Havana Province's PCC members are analyzing this exceptional work phase, which is being carried out in the midst of a special period in peacetime, during which political-ideological work and revitalization of the vigilance system, in response to destructive and antisocial behavior, have been at the center of the Party's work.

The discussions are unfolding around analysis of the organization's work and the membership's exemplarity in carrying out the commander in chief's directives for the special period—related to the production of tubers, vegetables, and grains; recovery in the cattle raising sphere; recovery in cane agriculture; and the fundamental tasks of defense.

Examination of the PCC's work in the case of the food program began with speeches by a group of directors of the province's miscellaneous crops enterprises, who reported on the state of their enterprises' production and the efforts being made during the current cold season planting, as well as on the formation of the Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC's], which are called upon to produce with greater efficiency, using fewer resources.

Upon analyzing the work done by the members of the contingents, and the incorporation of the members of these contingents into the new UBPC's, Candido Palmero, who is a member of the Politburo and PCC first secretary for Havana Province, said:

[Begin Palmero recording] We are all happy to see the comrades categorically reaffirm that not only are the contingents a new kind of force, but it has been they who have borne on their shoulders, during three years of special period, the food program in our province.

There are some confused people here and there who say: So, has the contingent process failed? Wrong. Over one million residents of the capital left their homes, their comforts, their families, their jobs—and have participated, either sporadically or permanently, with us, just like the people from Havana. What happens is that it is more productive to form the UBPC's with the help of the contingents, which are being maintained so long as they are needed, right? And with the [same] degree of volunteerism. [end recording]

The discussions of the food program are still going on at this assembly for assessment, renewal, and ratification of mandates of the PCC in Havana Province. In addition to analyzing fundamental tasks, the gathering is also scheduled to elect the PCC's provincial committee, the executive bureau, and the organization's work committees.

[Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish at 1902 GMT on 23 October adds the following information: Candido Palmero presided over the meeting in question. The current situation of the tobacco planting campaign, which is behind schedule because of heavy rains, and the experiences of a 72-caballeria Carita bean program, were amply discussed. The delegates felt the participation of the Youth Labor Army, the contingents from both Havana City Province and Havana Province, and the students from rural schools has been very positive.

In the afternoon session, the 281 delegates are going to analyze the progress of cane and cattle recovery efforts and the fulfillment of defense preparation tasks.]

Mexican Group To Market Cuban Medical Products

FL2510010093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The Finlay Institute and Mexico's Benavides industrial group have signed, in Mexico, an agreement for the exclusive right to market the B-C antimeningococcus vaccine, (Vamenoc B-C), as well as gamma globulin.

Orlando Gutierrez, director of advertising and public relations for the Cuban institution, said the Benavides group is a commercial organization that controls close to 600 pharmacies and laboratories that produce various medicines, in addition to other consumer goods. Hence the importance, he pointed out, to both countries of this agreement, because the (Vamengot B-C) [name as heard], unique in the world, will soon be available on the Mexican market to help prevent that deadly disease that leads to death within a few hours or, in the best of cases, leaves negative aftereffects.

Holguin Meeting Analyzes Agricultural Activities

FL2510022293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] In Holguin Jaime Crombet, who is vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, and Nelson Torres, who is a member of the Politburo as well as Sugar Industry minister, presided over an analysis meeting on the progress of cane recovery. The gathering analyzed matters related to repairing the mills and agricultural machinery, as well as the progress of the Basic Cooperative Production Unit formation process in the cane sector, a process that is on the point of concluding in Holguin Province.

Speaking at this meeting, Crombet said that the preparations for the upcoming sugar harvest in Cuba require greater efforts on all industrial and agricultural fronts, as a way to acquire [solucionar] the indispensable basic resources in time.

Dominican Republic Reduces Visa Issuance to Cubans

FL2510022393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] It has been officially announced that President Joaquin Balaguer has ordered Dominican Republic authorities to immediately reduce the number of visas issued to Cuban citizens who travel to Santo Domingo with a view to continuing on to the United States. According to Balaguer, U.S. Ambassador Robert Pastorino had expressed to him the U.S. Government's concern over the use of the Dominican Republic as a bridge for traveling to the United States.

Criminal, Judicial Action Reported 18 Oct-24 Oct

FL2510022193

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on criminal activity and related judicial actions in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 18 October and 24 October.

Radio Reloj at 2036 GMT on 18 October reports that the People's Tribunal of Santiago de Cuba Province has sentenced 51-year-old Manuel Ramirez to death by firing squad after finding him guilty of two counts of rape. The report adds that on 11 May Ramirez had raped one eight-year-old girl and one nine-year-old girl in Palma Soriano Municipality.

Radio Rebelde at 0000 GMT on 19 October reports that officials of the Jose Marti Airport confiscated 12 paintings by Cuban painters that were being smuggled out of the country in the false bottom of a suitcase on an Iberia flight. The foreign woman arrested in connection with this case said she obtained a telephone number in Madrid to contact her supplier in Havana, whom she paid in freely convertible currency. Paintings and works of art were also confiscated from a passenger leaving for Canada. The tourist said he had obtained the items from an unidentified individual in exchange for items he had purchased in a shop for tourists.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 19 October reports that decree Law 164 of 1982 decriminalized crimes by minors. Since then, the Ministries of the Interior and Education have established institutions to deal with such cases. The system relies on highly specialized institutions to counsel minors involved in crimes of antisocial behavior. Colonel Cecilia Andre Sardain, national chief for evaluation of minors, affirmed that the number of crimes committed by minors has dropped.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 21 October reports that the Commission on Constitutional and Judicial Issues of the National Assembly of the People's Government praises efforts made in Havana Province in fighting the theft and slaughter of cattle. A group from the commission is touring the province to evaluate those efforts.

Radio Reloj Network at 1709 GMT on 23 October reports that a theft of cooking oil from a storage depot is being investigated. In the predawn hours of 31 July, over 75 tons [figure as heard] of unrefined sunflower oil were lost from the (Juan Hernandez Sur) in Regla Municipality, Havana City Province. After the event, Roldan Martinez Alvarez and Margarita Medina Sierra, on duty at the time of the theft, were arrested as suspects. Margarita said Roldan had offered her 50,000 pesos to fail to see a tanker truck enter and leave the premises. It was also learned that Vladimir Garcia Torres and custodian Jose Chavez Ojeda offered Roldan 200,000 pesos to steal the oil during his shift. The criminals also bribed Julio Cesar Cardenas, who lived in front of the said establishment in Regla, and his friend, policeman Arnold Matos Martinez, with 10,000 pesos apiece. The oil taken from the establishment was put into a tank truck [pipa] belonging to the Applied Research Subdirectorate of the Ministry of Basic Industry, which was being driven not by its usual driver but by Rafael Marcelino Torres, who was also arrested. Because they did not know how to manipulate the valves properly, the criminals contaminated 65,279 tons [figure as heard] of oil, and spilled two. Had the entire 75,279 tons of oil been refined, it would have represented the quota for approximately one-half million people. The police also arrested Julio Abreu, Miguel Angel Castro, and Justo Cruz, whose houses were used as sites for reception and sale. Brothers Vladimir and Raul Garcia Torres, who are very closely connected to these events, are currently fugitives from justice.

Radio Havana Notes Clinton's 'Doubts' on Aristide's Return

PA2410024293 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Oct 93

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has dismissed the effects the naval blockade on Haiti will have on the Caribbean nation's population. In addition, he admitted he has doubts concerning the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide to the Haitian presidency on 30 October.

In reply to questions posed by reporters at the White House, Clinton pointed out that everyone in his government is working alongside the constitutional president who was deposed by a military coup in September 1991. The U.S. President was answering questions based on statements by Senator Jesse Helms who believes Aristide is a psychopath, as stated in a CIA report.

Clinton reiterated his support for Aristide and emphasized that political terrorism and human rights abuses had decreased during the short time he was in office.

In Madrid, the influential daily "EL PAIS" points out that coup leader General Raoul Cedras recently refused an appointment as ambassador to Spain. The appointment was offered by Prime Minister Robert Malval. In Haiti, Chamber of Deputies President Antoine Joseph

presented a six-point [as heard] proposal to resolve the crisis. The first point includes a simultaneous vote on the amnesty as well as separation of the Army and police.

High-Level Economic Delegation Visiting Chile

FL2510025593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] A delegation of high-ranking Cuban officials is in Santiago de Chile to hold a number of meetings with Chilean businessmen. The delegation is headed by Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation. Its objective is to provide information on the many possibilities for investing and doing business in Cuba.

Melendez will explain to the Chilean businessmen aspects related to Cuba's opening to international trade and foreign investment, the legal framework, and relative advantages offered to Latin Americans.

Portuguese Communist Party Leader Visits

FL2510025693 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Portuguese Communist Party President Alvaro Cunhal is in this capital on an official visit. Cunhal will hold talks with leaders of the Communist Party of Cuba and the Cuban Government and will visit sites of economic and social interest.

Upon arrival in Havana, the Portuguese leader said that Cuba is, for him, a universal example. He added that this population is facing very difficult problems, especially as a result of the blockade, but that international solidarity is increasing daily. In that connection, Cunhal praised the expansion of relations between Cuban and Portuguese provinces, with Portuguese mayors and town councillors traveling to Cuba.

Guantanamo Province Forms Combatants Association

FL2510031593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpt] During the conference that resulted in the founding of the Association of Combatants [of the Cuban Revolution] in Guantanamo Province, the people of Guantanamo confirmed their duty to defend the Cuban Revolution. Over 17,000 fighters from several different epochs were thus united to safeguard the accomplishments of socialism. The first agreement the delegates reached was to elect Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, Army General Raul Castro, and Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida as delegates for Guantanamo Province to the national constitutive conference of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution, which is scheduled to be held in the capital in December.

The fighters from Guantanamo confirmed their status as the occupants of the foremost anti-imperialist trench, their trust in the nation's top leadership, and also in the measures this leadership is taking to save the Revolution. They also elected their provincial leaders.

At the conference to form the Association of Combatants in Guantanamo, a common opinion was that the presence of this organization is timely because we are today living through the Cuban Revolution's most difficult moments. [passage omitted]

Cayman Islands

Cuban Refugees Grow Restive; Tent City Houses 54

FL2110180393 CANA in English 1715 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Georgetown, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, 21 Oct, CANA—Police were called in late Tuesday night to quell a disturbance between Cuban refugees at a camp here and private security officers hired by the government to patrol the compound.

According to one report, the trouble started over whether or not the Cubans were allowed to have alcoholic beverages inside the camp. A fight broke out and four people—two security guards and two male Cubans - were taken to the local hospital where they were treated and released. Police Commissioner Alan Ratcliffe denied reports his officers entered the compound with clubs and beat up several of the refugees. He said the fight was all over by the time police arrived. Ratcliffe said the matter was under investigation and there could be arrests when it is completed.

The Cuban refugees in Tent City have long complained of boredom, saying they are not allowed freedom of movement on Grand Cayman, not allowed to work, and are facing the prospect of another year inside the barbed-wire compound before they receive visas to go to the United States. Meanwhile, the refugee population here grew by 13 this past week. Late Wednesday afternoon, six male Cubans reached Cayman shores after drifting in their 14-foot wooden fishing boat for five days after leaving the south coast of Cuba.

The Cubans said a passing ship from Jamaica gave them fresh water and pointed them in the direction of the Cayman Islands, but declined to take them in tow. On Tuesday, seven Cubans including one woman, made landfall in the Caymans after sailing for two days from Cuba. The arrival of the 13 refugees increased the population of Tent City to 54 Cubans. An additional 10 Cuban refugees in Cayman are allowed to live outside the camp with relatives.

All of the Cubans have expressed a desire to reach the United States through a legal entry visa. That process could take another year at a minimum as current U.S.

Immigration and Naturalisation Service rules require at least 12 months to process a visa application from Cuban refugees in a third country.

Dominican Republic

Politicians Voice Opposition to UN Embargo Against Haiti

PA2510020993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1525 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Report by Joaquin Suero]

[Text] Santo Domingo, 23 Oct (EFE)—Dominican politicians have set aside their disagreements in the preliminary campaign for the 16 May 1994 general elections. All of them have agreed, although separately, that continued UN intervention in Haiti could spark a mass emigration of hungry Haitians to the Dominican Republic.

Federico Antun Battle, political secretary of the ruling Social Christian Reformist Party [PRSC], backed Joaquin Balaguer, PRSC president and president of the Republic, who opposes the UN embargo as a measure to force the coupist military into allowing ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to return.

Although Balaguer said he obeys the embargo, Antun Battle recalled that Balaguer, 87, said the international community must understand it is necessary to lay the foundations for peace before establishing democracy in Haiti, because Aristide's return by itself cannot guarantee peace.

Juan Bosch, former president, writer, and candidate for president for the moderately leftist Dominican Liberation Party, has said that military intervention in Haiti could harm the Dominican Republic's territorial integrity through a mass immigration of Haitians. Bosch believes the Governors Island agreements, which were signed in July, would be the best solution.

Vice President Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, who is also the Socialist International's president for Latin America and the Caribbean, said he disapproves of military intervention in Haiti. Nevertheless, Pena Gomez, presidential candidate for the Dominican Revolutionary Party, supports the economic and maritime blockade imposed by the United Nations.

Jacobo Majluta, former president and presidential candidate for the Independent Revolutionary Party, said through his spokesman Hector Guzman that armed intervention in Haiti would result in an increased immigration of Haitians to the Dominican Republic. Citing the case of Cuba, he also said the UN blockade will lead nowhere. On one occasion—and later, he was publicly backed by Balaguer—Majluta said several developed countries were trying to integrate Haiti and the Dominican Republic—two nations that share La Hispaniola Island in the central Caribbean.

On Thursday, the Nationalist Union comprising prominent professionals said the maritime blockade against Haiti is designed to bring about a famine in Haiti, which would compel the majority of the country's 7 million inhabitants to hurl themselves toward the Dominican Republic, thereby forcing the alleged integration. President Balaguer, however, said that if such a situation does indeed become a reality, his government has the means to avert it.

Since the blockade on Haiti started, heavily armed Dominican troops have been conducting military exercises in the provinces along the 300 km border with Haiti. According to some analysts, these exercises are intended to show the Haitians the Dominican Army's power and, in turn, dissuade them from entering the country illegally.

President Balaguer has ordered the border be opened at Dajabon and Banica on Tuesdays and Fridays to enable Haitians to enter Dominican territory to buy food, sell some goods, and then return to their own country.

Panamanian Vice President Opposes Embargo on Haiti

PA2410035993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1819 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Santo Domingo, 23 Oct (EFE)—The government press office reported today, Saturday, that Panamanian Vice President Guillermo Ford said he is opposed to the economic and trade embargo ordered by the United Nations against Haiti because he thinks the measure punishes "not the military, but the Haitian people."

Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer on Friday received Ford, who voiced his appreciation for the Christopher Columbus Order, Great Golden Cross, which was bestowed on him by the Dominican Government.

After visiting the Dominican president together with Panamanian Ambassador Carlos de Janon III, Ford recalled that his country sustained an embargo in the latter part of Manuel Antonio Noriega's government. Ford pointed out: "The Panamanian people paid the highest price and suffered most from the effects of this measure. I do not think embargoes should last very long, because they punish the people too much."

He added that he supports recent statements made by Balaguer when he said that, first of all, peace must be sought in Haiti and later democracy, but without any intervention in the nation's internal affairs. "The Haitian people have suffered very much for many years, and it is incomprehensible that a country cannot obtain permanent stability in the latter part of the 20th century," he said.

Ford has been in Santo Domingo since 21 October to dedicate the Dominican-Panamanian Chamber of Commerce.

Haiti

Malval Says No More Concessions; To Resign 30 Oct

BR2210140693 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 21 Oct 93 p 10

[Report on interview with Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval by Loretta Bondi in Port-au-Prince; date not given: "'We Will Concede Nothing to the Rebels'"]

[Text] Port-au-Prince—Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval works and receives visitors at his house, one of the beautiful villas of the Haitian "aristocracy" that dot the hills around the city center. "When President Aristide, on 25 August, offered me the job of leading the government, I accepted understanding that my personal safety was 90 percent in the hands of God," Malval told us. An elegant young businessman with Middle Eastern features and a reluctant convert to politics, he added: "Now, a month and a half after being appointed, I feel that my life and the lives of my family are 40 percent in the hands of my bodyguards." Perhaps you have to be optimistic in this job, because just 10 days ago Guy Malary, Malval's justice minister, was brutally killed by one of the armed groups (the so-called "Attaches," heirs of the notorious "Ton Ton Macoute" from the days of Duvalier's dictatorship) that are closely linked to the Army. "Look, my career in the business world has gotten me used to communicating with people," the prime minister stressed. "The troops assigned to protect me have told me that I am the first man in power they could talk to."

Malval is convinced that not only those who are in personal contact with him, but also other members of the military apparatus, will soon become aware of the dead-end into which the junta has led the country. For two days now, sanctions imposed by the United Nations have been in place to punish the usurpers and to force them to honor the agreement signed by Aristide and junta chief Raul Cedras, which called for the president's return to Haiti from exile in the United States and for his reinstatement as head of state by 30 October. Cedras, however, has so far refused to step aside, claiming that the amnesty for his men agreed to at the bargaining table has not yet been approved by parliament. "The pacts were crystal clear," Malval insisted. "Before the amnesty can take effect, the chambers have to ratify the laws on local autonomy and the separation of the police from the regular Army." This latter point is especially important because it is the link between the Armed Forces and the police that is dominating the country through a regime of terror and corruption.

According to insistent rumors swirling around the country, the chambers have apparently agreed, at last, to meet in plenary session in order to approve the amnesty and request that the government base be broadened. "I am not aware of this initiative," Malval said, "but as far as their petition is concerned, I have called a meeting for this afternoon with the members of the parliamentary committee. I will listen to them. For some time now the president has promised to broaden the government base and I want to make it clear that we are not prepared to make other concessions. Anyone who thinks that they are going to make us change our minds is mistaken." Malval's cool attitude toward the emissaries from parliament is understandable. Despite the guarantees given by Aristide, the chambers have been putting off the meeting, thus postponing the approval of the reforms which could have gotten the democratic process moving again. This procrastination has given Cedras the opportunity to remain at the helm and to break the promise he made in the agreement concluded with Aristide to step aside on 15 October.

"The junta can survive as a regime, but I doubt that the country can make any progress," says Malval. The people understand that there are very few alternatives and that if we were forced out, the problem would remain. However, the military hopes to wear down the international community, but this community is now responding with growing determination. Apart from the six U.S. and the three Canadian naval vessels sent to enforce the embargo, a fleet of 13 other units from the French, Netherlands, British, and Argentine navies is already steaming toward Haitian waters. In the meantime, a number of crucial international economic development cooperation projects for Haiti (one of the poorest countries in the world) have been blocked. The United States has also made plans to freeze the foreign assets of some 60 individuals, including some of those who were most closely linked to the coup d'etat, and to suspend a number of welcome programs for refugees.

In order to return to normality—apart from Aristide's return and the junta's resignation—the international community is demanding that the Armed Forces implement adequate security measures to ensure that parliament can reconvene and to protect the government, and, lastly, to dismantle the armed gangs and guarantee public order while respecting human rights. That is a very tall order indeed in Haiti today. The country has been in chaos since 30 September 1991, the day of the coup that intensified the divisions in an historically polarized society. Among the rich classes (dubbed the "domestic colonists" by one observer), who initially supported the junta, there is already talk—as can be seen in the slogan "ni Aristide, ni Cedras [neither Aristide, nor Cedras]—of the possibility of a "third way."

One thing certain however is that if a solution is not been found by 30 October, Malval will resign. "I was asked to lead the government until that date. If I remain, there is a risk that I will be viewed as an accomplice of the putschists," he said with a hint of a smile mixed with melancholy. "I will submit the names of two or three possible successors to the president." If Malval keeps his word, anyone who fears the radicalism of some of Aristide's supporters will see a guarantee of moderation leave along with the prime minister.

Effect of Oil Embargo in Port-au-Prince Reported

FL2210194393 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Most gas stations were not distributing fuel to drivers in Port-au-Prince on 21 October. (?about) three days after the enforcement of the international embargo. Lines of vehicles could be seen at the few stations that were open in the capital. According to informed sources, the supply of fuel available for the renewal of the reserves of those gas stations, properties of foreign companies including Shell, Texaco, and Esso, is affected by the oil embargo that has been hitting Haiti since 19 October.

In the past, Haitian authorities that were not acknowledged by the international community instituted legal proceedings so they could use those supplies, which the court granted to them. The political context is not the same anymore, pointed out a gas station owner who wants to remain anonymous. A spokesman for the Texaco Company said that this company was not concerned by the problem and that deliveries to the stations were continuing for the time being. At the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, a civil servant said that Minister Louis Dejoie would examine this issue on a priority basis, that is, on 21 October.

Because of the problems in supplying oil products, the board of directors of the National Association of Petroleum Products Distributors [ANADIPP] invites all members to an extraordinary general assembly today, 22 October at 1500 at its headquarters. In view of the importance of this meeting, says a note from the ANADIPP board of directors, the presence of all members is essential.

Gas Situation 'Critical'

FL2210194293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1400 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Report by Rothschild Francois, Jr.]

[Text] Minister of Commerce [and Industry] Louis Dejoie and Minister of Social Affairs (Joseph Berry) [are meeting with] representatives of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area drivers unions and representatives of the National Association of Petroleum Products Distributors in order to attempt to analyze the situation. After this meeting, the government will make a formal decision on the management of this oil crisis.

What we have learned is that apparently Texaco has also decided to halt its activities [as did Shell and Esso on 21 October]. The news has not yet been officially confirmed. We will try to have confirmation later. But what can nevertheless be noted in the streets of Port-au-Prince is that many people are looking for petroleum products and not managing to get any. It is a really critical situation.

By the way, I have with me the list of persons and institutions whose financial assets in the United States have been frozen following a decision by the U.S. Government. Thirty-two military men, including colonels and lieutenant colonels, members of the Revolutionary Front for Haitian Advancement and Progress, and a radio director appear on tae list. Further explanations will be provided later on Radio Metropole.

More on Fuel Supply

PA2210205393 Paris AFP in Spanish 1815 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 22 Oct (AFP)—Fuel supply problems added new tension today to the existing ones between the Army and the government, while shortages are beginning to be felt in Haiti after the oil companies decided not to sell their reserves. Since 21 October, the third day of the oil embargo imposed by the United Nations, many gasoline stations in Port-au-Prince remained closed while long lines formed in front of the ones that still remained opened.

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Robert Malval, Armed Forces chief General Raoul Cedras asked him to adopt measures and distribute the existing reserves. During the current embargo, the government established by the military filed a suit against the oil companies, and it was decided that they had to sell their reserves.

On Friday, Malval answered in writing that "the oil issue concerns the government and not the Armed Forces." Malval also told AFP that "we cannot act in the same manner as the de facto government."

Stanley Shrager, spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, admitted that "the situation of Malval's government is confusing, inasmuch as it has to face an embargo to restore democracy. [no closing quote marks as received]. Shrager added that the decision by the three oil companies established in Haiti will reduce the duration of the reserves to a few weeks instead of several months. When asked about the possibility that the Army would seize the reserves, Shrager said that the United States would consider such an action as "extremely grave."

In the political sphere, the blockade persisted on Friday. The prime minister canceled a meeting with Cedras and the Committee of Parliamentary Mediation. In view of this, voting on the amnesty law as demanded by the Armed Forces and on the law to separate the Army and the police as demanded by deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide seemed nearly impossible prior to 30 October, which is the date specified in the Governor's Island agreement for the return of the constitutional president.

Malval confirmed that he will stay beyond that date if Aristide wanted, and he said he will travel on 27 October to New York, where the deposed president will speak on 28 October before the United Nations.

In Washington, the U.S. Treasury Department has announced a list of 41 Haitians whose assets were frozen by the United States. The list includes 35 high-ranking officers, including Gen. Cedras and Colonel Michel Francois, chief of the Port-au-Prince police.

Cedras Asks Government To Manage Supply

FL2210213493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1800 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] A shortage is beginning to be felt since the decision of the oil companies not to sell their stock.

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Robert Malval, the Armed Forces chief, General Raoul Cedras, has asked the government to react. The Armed Forces expect, as soon as possible, a management plan for the distribution of existing supplies, from the jurisprudence in the matter done by the government preceding yours, wrote Gen. Cedras.

This morning, Malval indicated that he had responded in a letter that the management of the oil supply concerns the government, not the Armed Forces. We cannot have them practicing as a de facto government, asserts the prime minister to AFP, explaining that the companies should send to his government a request for exception that would be submitted to the UN Security Council with no guarantee of success.

Voodoo Practitioners Hold FRAPH Solidarity Ceremony

FL2210231093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 2000 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Right now as we are speaking, the news is in the Biscentenaire area. We have our colleague Clarence Renois reporting live:

[Renois] Good afternoon, Jacques, and Metropole listeners. You can hear from the noise in the background as we are speaking what I could call a new asset in the strategy of the Revolutionary Front for Haitian Advancement and Progress, FRAPH.

We can listen to the music being played in the background. It is the first time that we have seen this in Port-au-Prince. It is a group of voodoo followers. There are women dressed in white dresses who display bottles in the street. We see bottles with hot peppers, corn seeds; we see some v v [traced designs symbolizing the lwa, voodoo gods]. All of this is taking place in the traffic circle at Biscentenaire in Port-au-Prince, at the intersection of Avenue Marie-Jeanne and Casernes Street, not too far from the U.S. Embassy.

We can hear the song being sung in the background, and in a little while we will have an explanation from one of the FRAPH leaders who will explain what they are doing. There are small bells, corn seeds, bottles, all the tools, all the elements used in voodoo ceremonies. It is a new asset in FRAPH's strategy. FRAPH gathered the voodoo followers this afternoon in Port-au-Prince to hold this ceremony. We will now have an explanation from Emmanuel Constant, who is one of the FRAPH coordinators.

[Constant] As we always say, FRAPH includes all trends. Today, it is a group of voodoo followers from Cite Soleil who wished to express their solidarity with us. They are using their own methods to help with the crisis that the country is facing. We FRAPH leaders are willing to show solidarity with them, to see to what extent they can help find a solution to the crisis.

[Renois] What is the objective of this ceremony?

[Constant] There is a star corner [as heard] near the sea. They would like to see if it can protect Haiti from all the problems it is facing right now so as to protect the Haitian people.

[Renois] That was Emmanuel Constant, FRAPH leader, who was providing an explanation of this ceremony being held in the Biscentenaire area. Thank you studio.

Constitutionalist Bloc Supports Aristide Amnesty Order

FL2210195493 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The Constitutionalist Bloc of the Senate of the Republic is supporting President Aristide's decision to grant political amnesty through a presidential order. The bloc remains convinced that the acts of violence recorded these last days are part of a plan aimed at postponing the return of the official elected on 16 December [1990] and insistently asks the government to punish the culprits.

The bloc condemns the invasion of the parliament on 14 October by individuals who said they were supporters of General Cedras and who took parliamentarians and parliamentary employees hostage in order to hamper implementation of the agreement, according to the bloc.

Let us point out that the Crisis Committee formed by the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion [ACP] does not respect the internal rules of the parliament. The bloc hopes this committee does not represent a last, unhealthy maneuver aimed at destroying all the efforts toward a return to constitutional order, but rather represents a burst of dignity toward getting back on the right track. The bloc explains that the Crisis Committee cannot commit the parliament. In its statements that reached our editorial room on 21 October, the bloc denounces the ACP's vacant-seat policy as violation of points 2b, 2c, and 4.1 of the New York pact. It demands that the necessary measures be taken to facilitate the regular functioning of the parliament.

Caputo 'Aware, Rather Than Confident' In Haitian Crisis

FL2210194493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] In Haiti, the international community mediator for the crisis, Dante Caputo, last night mentioned a possible delay in the return to Haiti of President Aristide.

In an interview with Radio Metropole, Dante Caputo tried to discourage those sectors that consider the Haitian file would be closed if President Aristide does not return to Port-au-Prince on 30 October. Mediator Caputo invites all Haitian parties to put aside their personal interests and to consider the country's future. In this interview, Dante Caputo recognizes the complexity of the situation in Haiti.

[Begin recording] [Caputo] I am aware, rather than confident. By that, I mean there are many difficulties. It is quite obvious.

However, I insist on one essential idea. If there is really the intention of extracting the country from its crisis and not thinking of personal interests, I know that on the part of the Malval government there is the entire intention, while being very strict in working within the framework of the Governors Island agreement, while being very strict. In that game, there is total willingness to find all the means to relieve the situation.

[Reporter] Mr. Caputo, do you think that President Aristide could come back to Haiti on 30 October?

[Caputo] 30 October is an essential day. There is no doubt. However, if anyone has the idea that if 30 October comes without the country's president, the democratic offensive would therefore magically stop, that is not at all the case. If, on 30 October, failing to accomplish what one or another had to do would not bring the president back, 30 October will become 2 November or 4 November. I mean to say, by that: We are all working for 30 October to bring President Aristide to the country. The second thing I say is that if anyone thinks that in preventing the arrival of 30 October with the president in the country, everything falls, that person is totally mistaken.

[Reporter] Is there an attempt at mediation right now, to try to find a solution to this whole problem?

[Caputo] I know that the prime minister and the government are very active. Thank you. [end recording]

Cedras Absent From Meeting With Malval, Crisis Committee

FL2210190493 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1200 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Report from Prime Minister Robert Malval's residence in Delmas—live or recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...in Delmas. The prime minister, as well as the national and international media, waited several hours for the arrival of the Haitian Army chief. The journalists left the premises at 1730 as General Cedras did not show up. This meeting, scheduled by the Crisis Committee formed by the Alliance [for Parliamentary Cohesion] parliamentarians, should allow the two parties most concerned in the Haitian crisis, i.e., the Army and the government of [national] concord, to settle the main contentious questions that have blocked the process set in motion after the signing of the 3 July agreement. I was willing to meet with the Army chief; unfortunately, he has not shown up, stated the head of government before inviting the members of the media to a news conference scheduled for today [22 October]. Given the seriousness of the crisis the country is experiencing, the constitutional government announced to the nation on 21 October that the Council of Ministers has decided—in close collaboration with the head of state—to sit permanently.

Permanence also has been ordered at the U.S. Embassy and on Haiti's territorial waters only eight days before the date of 30 October set for the return to power of constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Malval: Missing Aristide Supporter in 'Safe Location'

PA2210173893 Paris AFP in Spanish 1650 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 22 Oct (AFP)—Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval has told AFP that Haitian Deputy Samuel Milord is in a "safe location." The whereabouts of Milord, a supporter of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, had been unknown.

"According to people close to him, he is in a safe location," Malval said in an interview with AFP. Nevertheless, the prime minister indicated: "I do not have any means of verifying this."

On Thursday, people close to the deputy told a Haitian radio station that Milord had been kidnapped by armed men from a Port-au-Prince neighborhood on Wednesday.

Malval Said To Identify 'Forces' Blocking Democratization

PA2210202393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1832 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 22 Oct (EFE)—Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval today told EFE that he has identified the forces blocking the process to carry out the country's democratization and to achieve the return to power of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Malval, who reiterated that "if Aristide does not return by 30 October, my mission concludes," stated that the forces represent a minority within the Army, a minority

that does not want to respect the agreements signed last 3 June at Governor's Island, New York.

He said that only 5 percent of the military opposes the change and affirmed that the rest of the Army know they do not have a future with the leaders of the coup, who take everything (without sharing with other soldiers) in a corrupt and repressive system.

Malval identified many majors and captains of the 1982 to 1984 promotions as qualified professionals trained abroad who want a more professional Army.

He explained that behind the Army all the players of a system in which there are many people trying to obtain a place in society must be identified.

Malval said that Duvalierists are often mentioned when one talks about the situation Haiti is facing, but he added that there are not only Duvalierists involved. He explained that the forces involved are the ones that have large interests at stake, are afraid of change, and prefer a foreign occupation rather than Aristide's return.

"These people wanted a new negotiation on the return of the president, but there were two years of negotiations and there will not be more. We have seen how the agreements signed at Governor's Island were not respected, and nothing can ensure that if new negotiations are held these people will respect the same," Malval remarked.

Regarding a compromise, the government accepted an amnesty for military officers; he said that Aristide in principle accepted a convocation of legislators to vote on an amnesty bill, but he only demanded that Parliament first vote on the law creating a police as a guarantee for the convocation.

Malval said that he wrote to the Crisis Committee led by Antoine Joseph, president of the Chamber of Deputies, informing him that he cannot answer a request for a tripartite meeting (with military officers and parliamentarians) this afternoon.

He also said he supports the idea of the meeting but with a group that represents all sectors of Parliament, adding that in hopes of that, he will do nothing else.

Regarding the fuel problem, he said that this was a simple yet complex issue, as the three companies that distribute gasoline in Haiti work under British legislation.

He also stated that if he receives a direct request by these foreign corporations, he would consider the possibility of allowing gasoline distribution.

He added that he will negotiate with the National Association of Petroleum Products Distributors and with the drivers unions. He will listen to public opinion and consider the people's opinion before defining any specific policies and allowing distribution of gasoline only.

Regarding the letter sent by Cedras requesting his intervention to renew gasoline distribution, he said the contents were unacceptable and called it a threat. He explained that the Armed Forces have no say in the distribution of gasoline.

After 30 October "we will enter a completely new situation," he added. "If Aristide does not return on 30 October [words indistinct]. If Aristide believes, however, that it is a matter of days before he returns and that such a time period fits within the parameters of the Governors Island agreements, I will remain at his side," he affirmed.

He said: "My moral obligation at this time ends on 30 October. I will not stay in a position where we are increasingly seen as a puppet government."

Malval said he would travel to New York on 27 October to meet with Aristide and address the UN General Assembly. He said this meeting is fundamental for the future of his government.

Malval Cancels Meeting With Army, Crisis Committee

FL2210213393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The tripatite meeting between Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval, Army head General Raoul Cedras, and the parliamentary arbitration committee has been canceled by the head of the government. Here are the reasons given by Mr. Malval:

[Begin Malval recording, in Creole] We had accepted, on principle, holding the meeting. However, last night we received a letter from another group of legislators stating that the committee that came to see us is not representative of the parliament. Basically, a debate should be held so that the whole parliament may designate a committee that would represent the parliament. In view of this new element, we are forced to say—since we cannot get involved in the parliament's matters—we are forced to postpone the meeting on our part until they reach agreement in the parliament. However, we remain available for talks. We are not closing any doors. [end recording]

Parliamentary Committee Announces New 5-Point Proposal

PA2310012893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0031 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 22 Oct (EFE)—The parliamentary committee trying to mediate between the Haitian Army and Government to end 25 months of crisis announced a new proposal on Friday.

Antoine Joseph, vice president of the Assembly and president of the Crisis Committee, held a news conference and announced a new five-point proposal.

The first point is the simultaneous approval of the Amnesty Law for the coupists—as demanded by the military—and the police law. General Cedras cited the lack of an amnesty law as the reason why he did not resign his post as Army chief on 15 October as previously agreed upon in the Governors Island Accord.

This law, which would mean separating the Army and police in a country where the Army acts as a police force and the police force is militarized, is a condition set both by overthrown President Jean Bertrand Aristide and the United States, which refuses to lift the embargo on Haiti until the law is approved.

Both laws would be enacted simultaneously according to the Crisis Committee proposal.

The third point is for Prime Minister Robert Malval to broaden his cabinet to allow the entry of "less radical" ministers.

The fourth point states that after both laws are approved and enacted, President Aristide will ask the international community to lift the sanctions.

The fifth point is an attack against UN Special Envoy Dante Caputo, a former Argentine foreign minister. According to this point, the government will ask Caputo for "more serenity in fulfilling his mission, because his statements make the situation worse rather than calmer." Caputo is being blamed for the massive exodus seen in Port-au-Prince for the past week.

Bid 'To Save' Governors Island Pact

PA2310235893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2238 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Report by Herold Jean-Francois]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 24 Oct (EFE)—Today, in an effort "to save" the Governors Island, New York, agreement signed on 3 July to reestablish democracy in Haiti, the "Crisis Committee" comprising Haitian congressmen who are mediating between the Army and government presented six additional proposals.

Antoine Joseph, president of the committee and head of the Chamber of Deputies, indicated that the proposals are acceptable to the government, which, he said, should seize this opportunity.

One of the points asks the government to neutralize the "pirate" media, which is listing the names of people who could be attacked. The committee also asks UN and OAS mediator Dante Caputo to mediate calmly in the Haitian crisis.

The committee also is urging the Haitian Government to establish a protocol to receive those international organizations and guests scheduled to participate in activities planned for 30 October—the date when President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was overthrown on 30 September 1991 by the military, is scheduled to return to the country.

According to the Crisis Committee, if those responsible for the blockade show goodwill, "we can make some progress."

The committee is also calling on National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] deputies who have questioned the committee's legitimacy, specifically those who are currently abroad in the United States, to form part of the committee. The committee also is asking the FNCD congressmen who participated in a meeting in Washington between Aristide and several organizations to return to Haiti to approve pending laws that were introduced by the constitutional president and, in this way, unblock the process initiated by the Governors Island agreements.

The majority of the legislators who are currently in Washington have not returned to Haiti because of death threats against them.

The committee notes that this process could be conducted quickly enough to enable President Aristide to return on 30 October as scheduled. The committee also is asking the government to permit those parties represented in the Haitian Parliament to take part in the process, as stipulated within the agreements signed on Governors Island by Caputo, Aristide, and General Raoul Cedras, one of the leaders of the 30 September 1991 coup.

Caputo Welcomes 'Very Positive' Proposal

PA2410044893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0403 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 23 Oct (EFE)—The Haitian crisis could be on its way to a final solution following a proposal presented by a group of deputies opposing President Jean-Bertrand Aristide—a proposal which Dante Caputo, the special UN envoy to Haiti, has described as being "very positive."

At an impromptu news conference in Port-au-Prince tonight, Caputo said he believes the impasse blocking the Governors Island agreements, which provide for President Aristide's return to Haiti, can be overcome "in a short time."

The fulfillment of the agreements was blocked on 15 October when Army Commander General Raoul Cedras, who on 30 September 1991 staged a coup that led to the ouster of constitutional President Aristide, failed to step down as scheduled.

Caputo's news conference was held a few hours after Cedras met with Robert Malval, prime minister of the transition cabinet. Caputo stressed that the proposal was drafted by deputies who had opposed Aristide and that it was worded in accordance with the Governors Island

agreements that call for Aristide's return on 30 October. "No agreement has been reached, but significant progress has been attained," Caputo said. Nevertheless, he warned that international sanctions imposed on Haiti will not be lifted until Aristide returns.

Proposal Includes Cedras Withdrawal

PA2410131793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0517 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Report by Elias Garcia]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 23 Oct (EFE)—The Haitian crisis may be on the way to being resolved through a plan presented by a group of congressmen opposed to the return of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a plan which UN envoy to Haiti Dante Caputo has described as "very positive."

"An agreement has not yet been reached, but considerable progress has been made," Caputo said during a news conference on Saturday night in Port-au-Prince.

Among the proposals set forth by the Haitian congressmen, the most noteworthy is the withdrawal of Army chief General Raoul Cedras, whose decision to remain in power beyond 15 October in violation of the Governor Island agreements unleashed a new crisis.

The news conference by the former Argentine foreign minister followed a day of intense negotiations involving several meetings, the most significant of which was between Cedras and Robert Malval, prime minister of the transition government, which was characterized by Malval as "very positive," according to Caputo.

The second meeting was between Malval, Caputo, and the ambassadors of Canada, the United States, France and Venezuela, which are members of the UN secretary general's "group of friends" of the Haitian crisis.

The congressmen's plan also contains a proposal that ensures a concurrent vote on two conflicting laws: amnesty for the coupist—the demand that lies behind Cedras' decision not to withdraw from his post on 15 October as agreed upon in the Governor Island agreements—and the police law.

The police law—which would establish a separation between the Army and police in a country where the Army is a police force and the police is militarized—is a condition also demanded by deposed President Aristide and the United States, who oppose lifting the embargo against Haiti until the law is approved.

These laws would be concurrently approved on 26 and 27 October, according to the information given to EFE by a UN spokesman after the meeting.

Regarding another point in the congressmen's plan, which contemplates increasing the current transition cabinet with less radical ministers, Caputo said that the United Nations has no opinion on this issue, which is the prime minister's prerogative.

Nevertheless, the former Argentine foreign minister said, "I would be surprised if nondemocratic elements" were included in a democratic government like Malval's.

Caputo underscored the fact that the plan was designed by congressmen who are President Aristide's adversaries and that it adheres to the Governor Island agreements, which had established that Aristide would return to Haiti on 30 October.

The UN envoy said that he hopes that "within a very short time" it will be possible to overcome the moot point on which the fulfillment of the agreements stands but warned that until Aristide returns the international sanctions imposed against Haiti will not be lifted.

"I believe there is resolve to fulfill the plan, but we need to see to believe," added Caputo, who ended the news conference by saying that "the Governor Island agreements are the only possible framework through which to resolve the Haitian crisis."

UN 'Source' on Embargo, Deadline for Aristide's Return

PA2410010693 Paris AFP in Spanish 0012 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 23 (AFP)—The UN Security Council early next week must examine harsher sanctions against Haiti as part of a commercial embargo that would be added on to the oil embargo, a UN source said today in Port-au-Prince. The source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the additional sanctions could be implemented as of 30 October—the date slated for constitutional President Jean Bertrand Aristide's return to Haiti.

According to the same source, 30 October remains the deadline the United Nations plans for Aristide's return. Nevertheless, he added: "What really matters is his return, even if it takes place on 5 or 10 November." The source also said the commercial embargo, which would be designed to heighten pressure on the Armed Forces, could affect all products entering or leaving Haiti, "except for a few staples" such as rice. [passage omitted]

Police Reveal Plot To Murder Foreign Personality

PA2310180493 Paris AFP in Spanish 1644 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 23 Oct (AFP)—Haitian police today revealed in Port-au-Prince the existence of a plot to murder a foreign personality but did not identify such a personality.

"Mercenaries paid by certain Haitians who are cooperating with international terrorism are trying to execute a ghastly plan to murder a foreign personality, so as to aggravate the social crisis and justify an intervention in

Haiti," the military department of the Metropolitan Zone (Police) of Port-au-Prince stated in a communique.

The communique read that the police forces "have launched a security operation" and vehicles are being searched in various Port-au-Prince neighborhoods.

Cedras Promises To Give Up Power; Date Not Specified

PA2410132793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1045 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 24 Oct (EFE)— General Raoul Cedras' promise that he will give up power and the announcement of a new meeting with Prime Minister Robert Malval tomorrow have renewed hopes that the UN democratization plan in Haiti will be complied with.

In a three-hour meeting held at Malval's residence last night, Cedras promised that he will give up power. This was Cedras' first meeting with Malval since the last one 10 days ago.

Members of Duval's transition cabinet who support the country's democratization and the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide attended the meeting. Cedras was accompanied by other military officers who have been holding real power in Haiti since the 1991 coup d'etat.

At the end of the meeting, Commerce Minister Louis Dejoie said that Cedras had given his word that he will give up power, but it was not known when he will make his resignation effective.

Special UN envoy Dante Caputo refused to meet with Cedras directly. It was Cedras' attitude that paralyzed the democratization plan and increased the international embargo sanctions. He did not resign on 15 October as scheduled.

After Duval's and Cedras' meeting, Caputo held a news conference and said that "although no agreement was reached, an important advance had been made." [passage omitted]

Conditions Retirement to Amnesty Vote

PA2410200993 Paris AFP in Spanish 1913 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Paris, 24 Oct (AFP)—General Raoul Cedras, commander in chief of the Haitian Army, has said "that the only thing I want is to take my little retirement," [mi pequena jubilacion] but on the condition that an amnesty bill be voted on. Cedras said this during an interview that will appear in the 25 October edition of the French daily LIBERATION.

"I am resigning! I accept to return to my home to facilitate the solution to the crisis," Cedras affirmed, adding that "it is time that they grant me my much-deserved retirement."

Cedras said that he wrote "President Aristide on 14 October to ask for the application of the procedure that must be adopted by government authorities so that I could go into early retirement."

In addition, he said that his retirement was made conditional upon the fact that the amnesty be voted on, adding that it is a right "established and guaranteed" by the Governors Island agreement, signed on 3 July by Aristide, constitutional president whose return to Port-au-Prince is scheduled in principle for 30 October.

The general said these agreements represent a "good transition plan" that was not "respected as it could have been."

"With the current blockade, there is less than one week before the 30 October deadline expires. If they want to implement the accord, it will be necessary to modify the conditions or modify its application date," he concluded.

Armed Forces State Support for Attempts To Resolve Crisis

PA2410183593 Paris AFP in Spanish 1736 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Report by Jean Luc Bardet]

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 24 Oct (AFP)—The Haitian Armed Forces stated this Sunday that they support the existing attempts to find a solution to the country's crisis, after a meeting held on 23 October between General Raoul Cedras and Prime Minister Robert Malval.

This position adopted by the Armed Forces came after Cedras and Malval, who had not met since 7 October, held a meeting on Saturday, which Malval deemed "rather positive."

The conversation between Cedras and Malval focused particularly on the plan proposed by a group of parliamentarians opposed to Aristide's return.

International mediator Dante Caputo also expressed support for this solution proposed by a group of parliamentarians, which establishes that the amnesty bill for military officers and the bill separating the Army from the police be issued simultaneously.

In a communique, the Armed Forces stated that they favor "all steps that can create an appropriate atmosphere for a peaceful transition." [passage omitted]

Caputo confirmed on Saturday that Aristide's return will definitely not take place on 30 October, as scheduled.

Referring to the "mechanics" of the proposal made by the parliamentarians, Caputo said that it is "positive," although he refused to say that it represents an advancement. He asked for some time to examine the plan and determine "if it is yet another delaying tactic." [passage omitted]

El Salvador

FMLN Says U.S. Governor Threatening Immigrants

PA2210231393 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Report by Jose Soneta; from the "Period, Same Paragraph" newscast]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] today reported that California Governor Pete Wilson is threatening 700,000 Salvadorans living in that U.S. state. He is threatening to deport them and deprive them of various civil and human rights to which they are entitled despite being immigrants.

The FMLN accused Pete Wilson of blaming Salvadorans for the deterioration of the city's health and ecological systems; moreover, he has denied Salvadoran children access to schools and medical attention at hospitals and also has denied Salvadorans their driver licenses. Wilson has also deprived all Salvadorans living in California of their U.S. citizenship, to which, according to the law, they are entitled, because they were born there.

In view of this, the FMLN is concerned about the tragic consequences that Salvadorans may suffer in the United States, because our fellow countrymen's stability and safety could be jeopardized. They recalled certain incidents in Europe, including racial violence against foreigners in certain countries there. The FMLN is concerned that this could happen to Salvadorans living in California also.

Thus, the FMLN urged both the Clinton administration and the Salvadoran Government to assume a positive attitude toward Salvadoran immigrants and grant them the protection to which they are entitled as human beings.

Chief Justice Vows Not To Resign Under UN Pressure

PA2310215493 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1802 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Mauricio Gutierrez Castro, president of the Salvadoran Supreme Court of Justice, today said he will not resign under UN pressure stemming from recommendations of the Truth Commission which investigated political crimes perpetrated during the past war in El Salvador. "I will not accept any pressure to resign in violation of our constitutional system," Gutierrez said. He added that the Truth Commission has been "discredited by its own members."

Gutierrez reacted angrily to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's call for the government, the former guerrillas, and other sectors to follow the recommendations made by the Truth Commission, which investigated the most severe human rights violations committed since 1980. In a report released on 15 March, the Truth Commission recommended the removal of high-ranking officers, most of them no longer in active service, and the resignation of all Supreme Court of Justice magistrates. None of the magistrates has resigned, however. Butrus-Ghali also urged the Legislative Assembly to reform the Constitution's articles dealing with judicial matters, eliminating the concentration of powers within the Supreme Court of Justice in an effort to ensure that officials involved in violent acts do not remain unpunished.

"We reiterate to Mr. Butrus-Ghali that we will not resign or tolerate anything that goes against the state of law," Gutierrez said. He added: "We simply are prisoners of our Constitution and bylaws."

He severely and personally criticized members of the Truth Commission, particularly former Colombian President Belisario Betancur, whom Gutierrez accused of being an accessory to violent deeds in his own country, and former Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo, whom Gutierrez regards as being involved in corruption.

Conciliation Party Announces Presidential Candidates

PA2210165993 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 18 Oct 93 p 3

[Text] National Conciliation Party (PCN) Press Director Roberto Rodriguez yesterday announced the official nominations of Colonel Roberto Escobar Garcia and Roberto Marchessini as the PCN's presidential and vice presidential candidates.

"At a national convention the PCN officially proclaimed the candidacy of Col. Escobar Garcia and Marchessini," Rodriguez said, adding that the presidential ticket won 86 votes from the 106 delegates who participated in the national convention.

Rodriguez also said that the group led by Deputy Rafael Moran Orellana "only obtained 14 votes of confidence, which were neither in favor nor against the candidates." Deputy Moran Orellana, leader of the PCN's Rescue Movement, was contacted by telephone for his reaction; he said that during the convention the only ticket presented was the Escobar-Marchessini ticket and that the 14 votes of confidence "were an elegant way of abstaining."

Nevertheless, Moran Orellana said the Rescue Movement deputies held a meeting yesterday to examine the situation and within the next few hours will disclose "the group's official position."

Regarding the reinstatement in the PCN of Generals Juan Rafael Bustillo and Adolfo Blandon, Rodriguez said that "the rank and file have rejected their reinduction into the party."

"For the time being it is not possible for either of the military officers to seek public office for the PCN," Rodriguez stressed.

He also asserted that at the Rescue Movement's convention, Gen. Bustillo and Gen. Blandon were presented to the rank and file as the presidential ticket, but they did not win enough votes. He added that it was also agreed that neither officer should be members of the party and that Ciro Cruz Zepeda should continue as the PCN's secretary general.

This information was denied by Moran Orellana, who said his movement did not present any candidates, it did not agree to deny reentry to the generals, nor for Ciro Cruz Zepeda to stay on as secretary general of the PCN.

Now that Gen. Bustillo has declined the PCN's presidential candidacy, the party is experiencing a profound leadership crisis between current Secretary Cruz Zepeda and Deputy Moran Orellana, who advocates increased democratization and an end to what he calls "the ring."

Guatemala

President, Military Chief Deny Coup Rumors

PA2310011293 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Oct 93 p 9

[Text] Last night President Ramiro De Leon Carpio and Colonel Otto Perez Molina, chief of the Presidential General Staff, denied rumors that an alleged coup had been foiled last Wednesday in the early morning hours.

De Leon Carpio clearly said that "this is the least appropriate time for a coup because I have been meeting with the Armed Forces commanders, and they are quite enthusiastic about the government program and the way it has progressed."

He added that the programs against poverty initiated by the Armed Forces in the interior of the country represent crucial support for the task of finding a solution to the armed internal conflict. It would therefore be illogical for them to participate in a movement that would disrupt constitutional order.

The president indicated that the situation is so stable that two weeks ago the defense minister traveled to the Republic of China. Furthermore, the chief of the presidential general staff was in Washington last week on an official visit without any fears about the national situation.

For his part, Col. Perez Molina insisted that the rumors that have been circulating for several weeks now are being encouraged by individuals interested in blocking the referendum announced by De Leon Carpio.

Supreme Court Chief Denies Plot To Topple De Leon

PA2310045193 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 22 Oct 93 p 8

[Text] Supreme Court of Justice [CSJ] President Juan Jose Rodil Peralta says claims that the legislative and judicial branches are organizing a plot against the government of President Ramiro de Leon Carpio are nothing more than a political show [preceding word in English] orchestrated by the Attorney General's Office in an effort to encourage confrontation among the state branches.

Rodil Peralta says the information released by the Attorney General's Office is dangerous and unfounded, adding that Attorney General Telesforo Guerra Cahn should be asked to abstain from making such frivolous statements. If he truly has proof of the alleged plot, he should present it to the relevant courts.

Rodil has urged the Executive Branch, the president of Congress, the human rights ombudsman, and the attorney general to establish a permanent dialogue to resolve the political crisis the country is undergoing. He also denies that Deputy Jose Carlos Acevedo has been contracted as an artist or athlete at the CSJ.

Rodil says: "He works as a procedural attorney who is revising the new penal code because of his experience in this area and because he was the congressman who promoted the code, but his contract expires in December."

Rodil also says Mario Lobo Dubon, brother of the Congress president [Jose Fernando Lobo Dubon], was contracted to carry out the same duties as Acevedo Chavarria, but his contract has already expired. Rodil adds that it is not true that other deputies are receiving salaries from the CSJ.

On being asked why these people have been contracted when, according to his own statements, there is a shortage of economic resources at the CSJ, Rodil Peralta says that contracts such as these, as well as trips he has made, are for established purposes.

Rodil Peralta says that because the executive branch owes more than 30 million quetzales to the Judicial Branch, which has not received a satisfactory answer regarding the date when the debt will be repaid, the danger exists that the Judicial Branch will eventually be unable to pay its employees' salaries.

Rodil adds: "It is only because we do not want exacerbate conflicts between the branches of state that we have not initiated legal action for the repayment of this debt. We hope the finance minister will deliver the money within a few days."

Meanwhile, the Attorney General's Office asserts that existing documents prove that a plot is being hatched by deputies and CSJ justices against the government of

President Ramiro de Leon, adding that within the next few days further proof will be presented to confirm this, because the investigation has not concluded.

Rodil Peralta says that if Deputy Acevedo Chavarria was providing any other service for the CSJ, the normal thing would be for him to appear at the CSJ's offices a minimum of four times a month and for the CSJ to be aware of this. However, no one has seen him working at the CSJ, Rodil says.

Presidential, Armed Forces Spokesmen on Coup Rumors

PA2210205093 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1825 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The government and Armed Forces today described as "false" rumors of an alleged coup attempt involving Army officers and Congress deputies to oust President Ramiro De Leon Carpio.

Colonel Otto Perez Molina, the presidential chief of staff, told ACAN-EFE that rumors of a coup to depose De Leon have persisted since he was installed as head of state on 6 June to replace coupist President Jorge Serrano. Perez admitted that such rumors have intensified since President De Leon, who is commander general of the Army, requested a purge and the resignation of the 116 Assembly deputies and nine magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ). The assembly deputies and CSJ magistrates have refused to step down and subject themselves to a purge. As a result, the president called a plebiscite on 28 November to reinforce his initiative through popular vote.

The Constitutionality Court yesterday ratified the referendum call after the CSJ had suspended it temporarily by admitting an appeal filed by a group of deputies who oppose the popular consultation.

Col. Otto Perez believes that this situation is the source of the rumors of an alleged coup. He added that such rumors are spread by "deputies whose interests are affected and who are trying to involve the Army in illegal acts."

Attorney General Telesforo Guerra Cahn yesterday denounced an alleged plot to destabilize the Executive Branch that reportedly involves CSJ magistrates and Congress deputies. Guerra said CSJ President Juan Jose Rodil is paying several deputies, including Jose Carlos Acevedo, to execute "a plan" against De Leon. Guerra did not provide any details about the alleged plan.

Guerra's charge was immediately rejected by those he named. Rodil, however, admitted the existence of "legal" contracts with parliamentarian Acevedo, who is accused of being among the "corrupt" in Congress.

Lawyer Carlos Gonzalez Quezada, leader of the Association of Dignitaries of the Nation, which is made up of former Constituent Assembly members, also warned about a possible coup promoted by politicians and judges. Gonzalez said the political crisis facing the country after De Leon demanded a purge has been provoked by "men, not institutions, and they will be responsible for whatever happens in the country."

Gonzalez criticized the "political immaturity" of Ramiro De Leon, Congress President Jose Fernando Lobo, and CSJ President Juan Jose Rodil, because they are actually promoting a "military coup."

In this regard, Armed Forces Spokeswoman Major Edith Vargas ruled out any movement against De Leon and assured that the Army "will not intervene in coup attempts." Edith Vargas added that the Armed Forces "will not participate in a coup d'etat and that the Army is willing to guarantee democracy" in this Central American country. Meanwhile, government spokesman Felix Loarca reaffirmed that "there is no reason to think about a break in the constitutional order."

Assembly deputies who are facing the opposition of the executive branch are planning a number of constitutional amendments to reduce presidential power and even to prompt the president's downfall by advancing elections.

De Leon Threatens 'Exceptional Measures' To Combat Violence

PA2510033393 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1639 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The local press today reported that Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon has threatened to impose exceptional measures to control the violence affecting this Central American country.

The president said that he will not hesitate to impose exceptional measures because he is not afraid of any possible political cost of resorting to such measures to counter violence in Guatemala, the only Central American country where there still is guerrilla activity that began in 1960. "If it is necessary to establish exceptional measures in some areas, I will do it because this is provided for," the president said, noting that such a mechanism is legal and democratic because the Constitution provides for it.

De Leon emphasized he is willing to suspend guarantees if the people demand that their security be guaranteed—something that has not happened since civilians returned to power (in 1986) following three decades of military regimes.

According to humanitarian organizations consulted by ACAN-EFE, there have been 177 murders, including 24 "extrajudicial executions," as well as 43 kidnappings in August and September. In addition, the government of the former human rights ombudsman, who took over in June, has been criticized for not having achieved a reduction in violations of basic rights.

According to De Leon, the lack of security is the main problem affecting all social strata. The president reported that the Security Cabinet, which includes the ministers of government and defense, as well as the intelligence advisers, will remain in permanent session to analyze measures to be adopted to eradicate violence.

Attorney General To File Charges Against High Court Members

PA2310211793 Paris AFP in Spanish 1808 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 23 Oct (AFP)—According to government sources, Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio continued his confrontation with Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice this week in advance of a referendum to be held in November—a referendum that could give him the support he needs to "purge" the state branches of corrupt officials.

On 21 October, the Constitutionality Court ordered the Electoral Tribunal to continue preparing for the plebiscite requested by the president. The preparations had been halted two weeks earlier because of a writ of amparo filed by the Supreme Court of Justice.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Telesforo Guerra Cahn, who has become the president's legal wing, within the next few hours is expected to file preliminary charges [antejuicio] against the magistrates who requested the suspension of the plebiscite, claiming there are "violations in the resolution."

Meanwhile, the majority of congressmen who oppose the president have continued to draft a constitutional amendment that will affect "at least 62 articles" of the Constitution in an attempt to outmaneuver the president. On Monday, 25 October, De Leon is scheduled to address the nation to announce his proposed constitutional amendments, according to legislative sources.

The deputies will try—among other things—to shorten the government's term and call for elections by mid-1994. In turn, President de Leon would have to leave the presidency in October 1994, according to Alfonso Cabrera, secretary general of the Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG).

In the 28 November plebiscite, a total of 3.4 million Guatemalans have registered to vote "yes" or "no" to De Leon's demand for the resignation of the congressmen and Supreme Court magistrates. De Leon's demand, which he made two months ago, unleashed the current political crisis. [passage omitted]

Constitutionality Court Revokes Suspension of Plebiscite

PA2210163393 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1512 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Constitutionality Court (CC) on 21 October revoked an order from the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) temporarily suspending a plebiscite called for 28 November.

The resolution issued by the CC, which was the court that ordered the separation of President Jorge Serrano for staging a coup on 25 May, said that the provisional amparo "is not valid" and therefore transferred the case to the CSJ, which must make the final decision.

The CSJ granted a provisional amparo and temporarily suspended the plebiscite on 13 October on the grounds that it violated the Constitution because it subordinates the main government branches.

President Ramiro de Leon Carpio asked the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) to consult the population on whether they agree with his request for the resignation of 116 deputies and nine CSJ magistrates as a measure to purge both institutions.

The CC ordered transferring the case to the CSJ, which must issue a definitive resolution. Meanwhile, the TSE can continue the preparations for the plebiscite, which had also been suspended.

Although the referendum, scheduled for 28 November, could be postponed one more week, TSE First Member Mario Guerra Roldan told ACAN-EFE that "we will do everything possible not to change the date."

In August, de Leon Carpio began a "national crusade" to purge the legislative and judicial branches, based on the voluntary resignation of 116 deputies and nine magistrates. Because the deputies and magistrates rejected his request, de Leon Carpio decided to call a plebiscite to demand their resignation.

Constitutionality Court Approves Popular Consultation

PA2310010993 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Oct 93 p 16

[Text] The Constitutionality Court (CC) last night rejected the provisional amparo granted by the Supreme Court of Justice [CSJ], which had temporarily suspended the popular consultation process, as well as a lawsuit filed by four congressmen against the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE).

The CC's resolution says the legislators' requests for the amparo against the popular consultation were not in keeping with the stipulations outlined in the Amparo, Personal Representation, and Constitutionality Law, therefore the appeal could not be upheld.

Following a thorough examination of the provisional amparo granted to Deputy Rafael Oliveros Ramirez, the CC said it would have to approve the appeal filed by the Attorney General's Office and therefore reject the requested lawsuit.

In another resolution, the CC rejected the request for a consultative opinion filed by CSJ President Juan Jose Rodil Peralta concerning the proceedings and resolution on first appeal for an amparo filed against the TSE for having restricted the titular justices and their alternates.

Court Asks President To Remove Prosecutor General

PA2210233493 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2001 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Constitutionality Court today called for the dismissal of Prosecutor General Telesforo Guerra Cahn, stating that he is endangering institutional rule in Guatemala. Court Resolution No. 453-93 asks President Ramiro De Leon to replace Guerra Cahn, who in mid-September charged that "the Constitutionality Court has lent itself to political interests."

In a statement to the media, the prosecutor general said that the impression exists that the court has deviated from its objective of defending institutional order and is endangering the country's stability. Guerra Cahn began his attacks on the court after it protected independent deputies Miguel Angel Montepeque and Eduardo Garcia Salas, who asked that the 70 deputies of the "grand parliamentary group" be prompted to attend legislative sessions.

In a 20 September resolution, the court established that with his charges, the nation's prosecutor general has acted against the independence of the court, thus interfering with the work of the Constitutional Court. The court resolution notes: "This official has violated Article 251 of the Constitution, which establishes that the Prosecutor General's Office assists the courts, because instead of providing technical and legal advice, he, with his statements, has endangered the country's order."

According to the court, Guerra Cahn's attitude is contrary to his constitutional functions and has made the normal relations that should exist between the two institutions impossible. The court noted: "The circumstances listed here provide enough evidence for President Ramiro De Leon, considering that removing the prosecutor general is a just cause because he is making it impossible for himself to participate in legal processes."

The resolution is signed by Chief Justice Epaminondas Gonzales and Justices Adolfo Gonzales, Edmundo Vazquez, Ramiro Lopez, Manuel Garcia, and Gabriel Larios. So far, President De Leon Carpio has ignored the 20 September resolution, which was ratified Friday by Constitutionality Court authorities.

Agreement Reached With Mexico on Border Controls

PA2310172393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0250 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 2 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican and Guatemalan Governments agreed here today to maintain a strict control of the people, animals, and lumber crossing the border and to build a port at the Hidalgo-Tecun Uman border post.

At the conclusion of the two-day binational meeting to study matters of mutual interest, the delegations of both countries promised to act rigorously to combat the trafficking of rare lumber into Mexico. A spokesman of the Guatemalan delegation reported that an interinstitutional group had been created to coordinate measures to guard, protect, and constructively use the lumber resources in the northern El Peten area.

The Central American delegation stated that they will give priority to the surveillance of the Melchor de Mencos community, which borders with Belize, where the contraband of lumber occurs. The Mexican delegation stated that it is conducting strict surveillance actions at its border with Guatemala to detect and prevent the possible illegal trafficking of Guatemalan lumber. Guatemalan Foreign Ministry and Mexican Embassy officials agreed to make joint visits to the forestry industries at the southern Mexican border and El Peten Department.

Regarding immigration, the Guatemalan delegation requested that the deportation of undocumented people [from Mexico] be carried out through the Tecun Uman, La Mesilla, and El Carmen border posts from 0700 to 1700. They also asked that Mexican authorities notify them of the deportations 24 hours in advance. According to official reports, approximately 75,000 Central Americans are deported from Mexico to Guatemala every year.

At the meeting, Guatemala expressed its concern for the minors who are returned and asked that they be taken to the Guatemalan Consulate for their [words indistinct] separate from the adults.

Regarding Guatemalan temporary agriculture workers, the Mexican delegation reported that they are being documented as local visitors. In the framework of the "Neighbor" program, the Guatemalan group presented two files with concrete cases of alleged irregularities committed by Mexican authorities. The Mexican representatives promised to investigate the cases. Guatemala proposed that "a passport for Guatemalan temporary agriculture workers" be established to benefit the approximately 87,000 workers who cross over to Mexico's Chiapas State every year.

The delegations admitted that noteworthy advances have been made in the process of the voluntary return of almost 42,000 Guatemalan refugees who fled their country during the period of the military regime in their

country and settled in the Mexican States of Chiapas, Campeche, and Quintana Roo.

An "ad hoc" subgroup has determined the location where the new Tecun Uman-Ciudad Hidalgo border bridge is to be located. The Mexican delegation reported to its counterpart that it will continue the financial feasibility studies to build the bridge, once Guatemala buys the land necessary for the project. The Guatemalan group proposed that the La Mesilla-Ciudad Cuauhtemoc border port be equipped for the commercial exchange of agriculture products coming from the border areas.

President, Deputies at Odds Over Early Elections

PA2210165893 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 21 Oct 93 p 7

[Article by David Flores Castillo: "Two Sides of the Coin"]

[Text] Deputy Catalina Soberanis says it is necessary to hold the general elections sooner than planned so that a new Congress, Supreme Court of Justice, and president of the Republic can be elected.

She added that state structures will thus be purged in response to the people's demands for a cleansing of the legislative, judicial and executive branches.

Soberanis criticized the position held by the current president who was elected by Congress, who wants to remain in power for seven years, and she urged him to support the constitutional reforms and to change the popular consultation to a referendum.

In a referendum, instead of asking the Guatemalan people if they support the president, they would be asked if they want the constitutional changes, and three months later the reforms suggested would become law.

"Out of conviction, all mayors, deputies, justices and President Ramiro de Leon should resign to make way for a new government that would take office in 1995," Soberanis said.

To hold the general elections earlier, a temporary law must be issued which will become retroactive from the moment the constitutional term is shortened.

President Ramiro de Leon has said he will complete the term for which he was elected, which ends on 14 January 1996.

He will also promote a popular consultation so the Guatemalan people can support his plan to purge the legislative and judicial branches.

According to the president, once Congress is purged he will present a package of reforms to the alternate deputies, who will be the ones to make the changes that he wants.

De Leon says the reforms Congress is making will not be taken into consideration because on 28 November he will receive the people's support and proceed with the purge.

There have been rumors to the effect that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal's summons to a popular consultation has made a possible technical coup legal; once the president receives the people's support he will have the constitutional right to dissolve Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice because sovereignty will presumably be on his side.

Although the deputies have reached a consensus regarding early elections, President Ramiro de Leon has declared that he will complete his term.

Attorney General Accuses Court of Paying Off Congressmen

PA2210163593 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 21 Oct 93 p 8

[Report by Oneida Najarro]

[Text] Yesterday, the Attorney General's Office revealed that investigations indicated that deputies and CSJ [Supreme Court of Justice] magistrates were organizing a plot against President Ramiro de Leon Carpio to destabilize his government.

"It has been established that a good number of deputies go the CSJ to get remunerations for alleged fees, commissions, incentives, and stipends for athletes or artists. This activity has increased since Congress gave full powers to Juan Jose Rodil Peralta [CSJ president] to manage the funds of that organization," the Attorney General's Office reported.

The Attorney General's Office added that the CSJ presidency has been buying off congressmen and manipulating their actions by paying them large amounts of money every month. The CSJ Presidency thus attempts to block the president's actions; proof of this is the preliminary trial against the president.

The Attorney General's Office has received several reports of irregularities, as a result of which its investigators have requested in the past few days access to the Legislative and Judicial Branches accounts and financial files. But the request was unjustifiably refused.

Acevedo Chavarria, One of the Deputies Who Receives Remuneration [subhead]

The Attorney General's Office indicated that UCN [Union of the National Center] Deputy Jose Carlos Acevedo heads the list of those who receive irregular payments at the CSJ. The payments range from 4,000 quetzales to 8,000 quetzales and there is concrete evidence to back the charges. CSJ Private Secretary Julio Rivera Claveria is also being investigated as, in addition to his regular wages, he receives payments for undetermined services. The Attorney General's Office added

that CSJ president's brother, Mario Lobo Dubon, and other deputies are also receiving payments from the CSJ.

The Attorney General's Office stated that it will continue "the investigations and take to court all deputies and magistrates who, taking advantage of their positions, commit corrupt actions that contravene the people's interests."

Human Rights Commission Says 40 Rebels in Clandestine Jails

PA2210185693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1448 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Human Rights Commission of Guatemala (CDHG) reported today that approximately 40 guerrillas are being held in clandestine jails located in military garrisons throughout the country.

Osvaldo Enriquez, president of the CDHG, which has its headquarters in Mexico City, said that there is a clandestine repression organization in the country that includes members of the Presidential Command Staff and Military Intelligence (G-2.)

Enriquez said he had information on the existence of clandestine jails that could be holding approximately 40 Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) members, who are being tortured for information. He revealed that a few of those guerrillas are turned into G-2 members so that they can obtain information on the URNG's tactical and military operations. The rebels who refuse to join the military ranks are tortured until they comply. If the prisoner continues to resist, he is executed and buried in clandestine cemeteries, Enriquez added.

"The testimonies of witnesses and former guerrilla members, as well as G-2 members, clearly indicate the existence of clandestine jails and cemeteries. Most of them are located within the military garrisons' compound," the CDHG president stated.

He denounced the Guatemalan Army's covering up of its intelligence members, whose real names are not known, as they are given pseudonyms to avoid being brought to trial. Enriquez said that with the establishment of a Truth Commission in Guatemala and the help of witnesses, the clandestine jails and cemeteries and the people responsible for such actions could be found.

Residents Protest Children's Program; Army Occupies Town

PA2210231193 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Oct 93 p 8

[Excerpt] Residents in Santa Maria de Jesus, on the slopes of Agua Volcano, Sacatepequez jurisdiction, lived hours of tension on the night of 19 October. Thousands of townspeople, guided by military commissioners and politicians, led furious residents who destroyed four establishments of the Los Mosquitos Children's Benefit Program. As a result, members of the National Army occupied the town to prevent a disturbance similar to the 19 October incident, which left property damage of approximately 200,000 quetzales.

Toribio Tepas Rancho, mayor of Santa Maria de Jesus, and other municipal leaders had to resign on 19 October to avoid being attacked by the mobs. After demanding a written resignation note, the protesters sacked and destroyed the establishment where the offices of the children's benefit program is located.

According to residents, the mayor provoked the disorders by demanding the withdrawal of the military detachment without consulting the people, who want them to return.

They added that the attack against Los Mosquitos establishments was a protest against the institution's general director, Isabel Porta Espana, who uses the children in that town to obtain money from the United States.

The incidents occurred after the commissioners and politicians learned about a meeting that the mayor and his collaborators would have with delegates from each canton, at the municipal building.

Residents said the disorders showed the people's rejection of the mayor and municipal authorities, who are being manipulated by Porta Espana. They added that she created a political committee that handled the municipal elections in May of this year. [passage omitted]

Honduras

Army Spokesman Aguilar on Border Incidents

PA2210220893 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1852 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Honduran Army spokesman Colonel Santos Aguilar by station announcer Juan Bautista in Tegucigalpa; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bautista] Colonel, we have reports that in the Trojes area of eastern Honduras [15-second break in reception].

[Aguilar] Yesterday afternoon, between 1400 and 1500, 59 adults and 77 children, all Nicaraguan citizens, entered our territory. They reportedly came from Planes de Juanito, Jalapa, Nicaragua. These people spent the night near the border, but this morning they were taken deeper into Honduran territory to Cano de La Cruz because they had not eaten for two days and were very tired. They had only the clothes on their backs. Later, the proper authorities, including presidential designate Roberto Martinez, were notified to find out how the Permanent Emergency Committee can provide them with some food and meet their other needs. Assistance is already on its way. That is the situation.

[Bautista] There were reports this morning that there had been an air raid by the Sandinist Air Force on Honduras [words indistinct] in the country's eastern region.

[Aguilar] We heard news reports yesterday afternoon. Because the situation in Nicaragua has been somewhat difficult and tense, apparently some shots were fired from Nicaraguan territory. Those shots, however, fell on the Patuca River, which at some point forms the border between Honduras and Nicaragua. The sources apparently reported that the shots were fired over Honduran territory. We have talked the situation over with our troops in the area. Apparently something happened not on the Honduran side but on the border itself. As I said earlier, some shots fell harmlessly to the river. No harm was done either to the Honduran people or property.

[Bautista] Thanks for your comments, Colonel. Would you like to add anything else?

[Aguilar] Only that the area is being constantly patrolled, particularly El Paraiso, in Yamales, Matingales, Fuentes, Arenales, Papalci, and Trojes to check whether or not Talavera did enter our territory with a number of men, as the international news agencies have reported. We think the Honduran people, particularly at the border, can rest assured that our troops are in the area and that no strange situation will be allowed to develop. It is possible for an additional number of Nicaraguan civilians to enter our territory. The necessary contacts with the proper Honduran authorities have already been made to treat them properly. The population must believe we are protecting Honduran interests at the border.

[Batista] Thanks, Col. Aguilar, for your remarks.

Army Confirms Presence of 3-80 Northern Front Leader

PA2210200193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1905 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Honduran Army confirmed to NOTIMEX today that Jose Angel Talavera, "El Chacal," chief of the Nicaraguan 3-80 Northern Front, is in Honduras.

Military Spokesman Guillermo Pagan said the 110th Brigade, commanded by Colonel Guillermo Linares Zepeda, has urged the Nicaraguan rearmed rebels to lay down their weapons and surrender.

The Honduran Army has "located" "El Chacal" in an area close to the community of Arenales in the eastern Honduran Department of El Paraiso, bordering with Nicaragua, Pagan added.

According to the official report, a group of civilians made up of 59 adults and 75 children entered Honduran territory last night seeking refuge and are now receiving attention and food from the Permanent Committee for Emergencies (COPECO).

The group informed the Honduran military intelligence that "El Chacal" and approximately 100 of his men entered Honduran territory and are in that sector.

The refugees were taken to a place known as Canon de La Cruz, El Paraiso Department.

The civilians reported that clashes between recontras and the Nicaraguan Army continue at the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

Army Denies Presence

PA2310225093 Paris AFP in Spanish 2151 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Oct (AFP)—The Honduran Army today denied that Nicaraguan recontra chief Jose Angel Talavera, alias "El Chacal," and 100 followers have entered Honduran territory, as it was reported this week in Tegucigalpa.

On Thursday, Armed Forces Chief General Luis Alonso Discua told the press that he could neither confirm nor deny the report given by the Public Relations Directorate of the Armed Forces that said "El Chacal" had been located in Arenales, El Paraiso Department, in eastern Honduras.

However, Army Commander Gen. Guillermo Paredes said it is not true that "El Chacal" and his men have entered Honduras. Paredes said that so far it has only been confirmed that 59 Nicaraguan adults and 77 children have entered as refugees. The military officer confirmed that Gen. Discua has issued specific instructions that "we cannot allow anyone to enter without first arresting and disarming them and then providing them with corresponding treatment under the law."

In the 1980's, approximately 18,000 armed anti-Sandinist contras established themselves in eastern and southern Honduras. The contras were supported by the U.S. Government that was trying to oust the government of President Daniel Ortega.

Armed Forces Commander on Border Situation

PA2210145393 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1532 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Interview with General Luis Alfonso Discua, Honduran Armed Forces commander in chief, by unidentified reporters in Tegucigalpa; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] What can you tell us about the border with Nicaragua?

[Discua] The Armed Forces have problems very close to the border with Nicaragua, in Paraiso Department, and units stationed in that sector are on on alert. I think they will of course check on this within our territory in the area close to the border between Honduras and Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Have troops been deployed there?

[Discua] No. As I said the troops that are normally there are tasked with maintaining order and protecting our territorial sovereignty, but those units have always been there.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Discua] Any plan by the Nicaraguan Government... [pauses] The recontras who enter bearing arms will be immediately captured and disarmed and of course handed over to their respective country, if they came from Nicaragua.

[Reporter] The National Congress is seriously discussing reducing the Armed Forces budget.

[Discua] We are going to wait until that motion is introduced in Congress.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] requested a reduction in the Armed Forces and its budget. How do you feel about this?

[Discua] As I said, we will discuss this matter with them.

[Reporter] When?

[Discua] Any time. We have always been willing to discuss with them the topic of the Armed Forces and why an armed institution exists in a democratic country.

[Reporter] Will there be a meeting between the Armed Forces and the [word indistinct] people?

[Discua] I do not know—at any time.

[Reporter] Does the president [word indistinct] this request?

[Discua] As I said, we will discuss it.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] regarding some amendments to the Armed Forces charter.

[Discua] I think one has to take into consideration the views of the Armed Forces. Whenever there is a great deal of talk about an organization, I think one also has to listen to that organization, namely, the Armed Forces.

[Reporter] The Armed Forces has been sued for millions of lempiras for using some land for [word indistinct].

[Discua] I think you have been ill-informed. Read today's newspapers well because they make no mention of that.

[Reporter] What can you tell Hondurans about the presence of Honduran soldiers abroad on UN missions?

[Discua] We are studying the possibility of increasing the Honduran contingents in different countries because the United Nations has sent letters to the president mentioning at length the conduct and professionalism of Honduran soldiers now on missions in vital areas. We are considering the possibility of having Armed Forces soldiers participate in peace missions in strife-torn areas.

[Reporter] Will soldiers be sent to Haiti?

[Discua] We have not yet... [pauses] As I said, we are studying that possibility with the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] General, drug-trafficking activities in Honduras have recently increased. We have seen many policemen on patrol.

[Discua] Yes. What happens is there has been an increase in drug trafficking activities, car thefts, murders, and robberies. We did not have this in Honduras until recently. This only happened in other countries—for instance, Guatemala and El Salvador. The new technique of violence certainly worries us because it means foreign criminals are possibly introducing new techniques of violence, and this will surely cause us a lot of problems. That is why the police have mobilized. Weapons and vehicles are confiscated because an international band is behind these crimes; the police are doing their job to see how we can prevent this. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] How are things at the border, General? Are there any problems with the Nicaraguans?

[Discua] The situation... [pauses] The units which have always been posted at the border are still there. We are alert because that is our responsibility. We have always remained alert but our surveillance has been stepped up to prevent any irregular situation which may arise on Honduran territory.

[Reporter] General, what will the Armed Forces' role in the electoral process be? Will they offer protection to the voters?

[Discua] We will definitely provide the appropriate protection according to the electoral law's guidelines.

[Reporter] What Armed Forces areas will be sacrificed given the 100 million [currency not specified] budget?

[Discua] I cannot answer this because I onyl just read about it in the papers today. We first learn about things in the papers and [words indistinct] the corps.

[Reporter] General, reforms include eliminating your post.

[Discua] I heard about this through the media. I believe this should be discussed.

[Reporter] The National Congress president said they will (?cut) the Armed Forces' budget if necessary.

[Discua] If you pay close attention to the news, you will know what he really said. There's your answer.

[Reporter] Will the budget be cut if necessary?

[Discua] No, listen to what I've said—examine the entire interview.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] He said: If necessary, we will make cuts, because there is no problem. He sees no reason for the impasse.

[Discua] We will talk about that in due time.

[Reporter] General, some people in the country have become rich, become millionaires, overnight. It is reported their fortunes could come from drug trafficking.

[Discua] I cannot talk about this or refer to this because one would be responsible—sorry, irresponsible—if one made that kind of accusation. We must first investigate everything. We will issue a statement once we have information which confirms this.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Discua] A special unit handles this type of investigation.

[Reporter] General, a news agency report from Nicaragua says "El Chacal" [Jose Angel Talavera] may have entered our national territory.

[Discua] They report this but it has not been confirmed. I want to clearly state something to the national and international community: Any armed person who is not a member of the Honduran Armed Forces and enters our national territory will be captured, disarmed, and of course turned over to the appropriate authorities through the proper channels.

[Reporter] General, a new fiscal year has started in the United States. What is the status of U.S. military aid for our country's Armed Forces?

[Discua] It is at the same level. Remember there was an increase of almost $60 million in the 1980's. From 1990 to date, when the policy, when the global situation changed completely, the aid was reduced—$1.5 million. This includes a study in support of the struggle against drug trafficking, and to support ecology programs. In other words, the priorities are established by the U.S. Government, which decides how its aid to other people should be spent. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Regional, World Affairs

PA2410025393 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1840 GMT 19 Oct 93

["Exclusive interview" with Honduran Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata at his offices in Tegucigalpa by reporter Jose Rolando Sarmiento; date not given; from the "Newspaper of the Airwaves" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Sarmiento] First of all, Mr. Minister, I would like to know about the warning sent by the U.S. Embassy to the Honduran authorities regarding the possibility of Honduran businessmen losing their investments in Cuba if properties assigned to them are claimed by Cubans currently residing in the United States or if Fidel Castro's government seizes the properties without any compensation to the owners.

[Carias] Yes. In September, the U.S. Embassy sent a diplomatic note to the Foreign Ministry which stated primarily that the U.S. Government wants us to warn Honduran citizens and corporations that investing in Cuba could result in future claims on properties assigned to them. We sent the diplomatic note to the Economy Ministry, which I have been informed, is circulating it among members of the Honduran Council for Private Enterprise, Chamber of Commerce, and National Industrialists Association.

The United States also said in the note that more often than not these claims are not made by Cubans residing in the United States but by U.S. citizens and corporations. As you know, Americans had large sugar cane plantations and many investments in Cuba, including real estate. There is a special office in Washington that outlined instructions in the U.S. diplomatic note, which is available to any Honduran investor who wants to conduct business with Cuba so he will know whether or not lands that may be offered to him are subject to claims for compensation.

[Sarmiento] Should the Honduran state be concerned about the fact that large investments by Hondurans may be subject in the future to these claims and that they may suffer heavy losses?

[Carias] These are the private affairs of merchants and businessmen. Since the United States warned us, however, we thought we should circulate the information in order that Honduran citizens will know how to deal with Cuba.

[Sarmiento] Did the U.S. indicate which properties are subject to such claims so that Honduran investors will not be prey to such situations?

[Carias] Right. If a businessman decides to do business with Cuba he must obtain from the Cuban authorities some sort of guarantee that the properties assigned to him are problem-free or that they are free of claims or any other safeguards, which must be specified in a contract of this nature.

[Sarmiento] Mr. Foreign Minister, I would also like official information on the preparations that are being made by the foreign ministries, the presidents themselves, and the technical commissions regarding the presidential summit which was postponed and is now scheduled to take place at the end of this month in the Guatemalan capital.

[Carias] Yes, the summit of Central American presidents will be held 27-29 October. In New York City, on the occasion of the General Assembly, the foreign ministers reviewed the agenda which, as usual, is a very broad

agenda because it includes political, economic and social issues as well as Central American cooperation with third countries.

In my opinion, three issues will be relevant at the Guatemala Summit: First, the summit will virtually be a summit within the framework of the Central American Integration System, SICA, offices, which will be formally inaugurated by the five presidents—pardon me, by the six presidents—in San Salvador on the morning of 27 October, which, strictly speaking, will happen before the presidents travel to Guatemala to begin the summit. This means that Central America will be organized under the SICA system; presidential summits will constitute the SICA's supreme organ; and, henceforth, the actions of all integration organizations and governments will be totally coordinated, making Central America a single bloc in order that economic and social integration will be intensified in the region. Also, internationally we will speak with a single voice on a very broad range of topics.

Another relevant issue at the Guatemala Summit is that the presidents will sign the protocol for the Economic Integration General Treaty which, as you know, was signed in 1960 and is being updated now so that it will be possible to intensify integration—a process I believe to be virtually irreversible.

The third great aspect is that the Honduran Government has realized that Central America again must present to the international community its needs and report its efforts to consolidate democracy, peace, and human development in this great economic integration movement. In Guatemala, the Honduran Government will propose to make a broad statement so that international cooperation for Central America's peace and development can be restated at the United Nations.

The process will take some months. We want to meet with our friends in America, Europe, Asia, and the Arab countries and discuss with them Central America's needs to preserve peace, ensure economic growth through free markets, and make greater emphasis on social programs for human development. As you know, sometimes there are problems in neighboring countries, the effects of which are felt in in Honduras.

We think it is best to have an overall vision so that peace can be consolidated in Central America and so the lost decade can be recovered with this effort, which the Honduran Government believes is worthwhile to make, thus reemphasizing international cooperation with Central America.

[Sarmiento] Is there any relationship between the Group of Three [G-3] and this summit? Will any of the G-3 presidents attend? We understand that the Colombian president will come to Honduras.

[Carias] The relations with the G-3 are excellent. A meeting of deputy foreign ministers was held in Venezuela recently where they outlined a mutual support program. The G-3 presidents will not attend the Guatemalan summit, partly because the negotiations to establish a free trade zone between Central America, Venezuela, and Colombia have not yet been concluded. This conclusion, which was expected on 29 October, will be postponed for the year end.

A commercial negotiation always involves the opinions of many economic sectors that have to do with opening the border. The negotiation has not yet been completed, and the conclusion will be postponed. Central America will also have a good opportunity to improve relations with neighboring countries; this explains why we will have the honor of receiving Colombian President Cesar Gaviria on an official visit in San Pedro Sula on 26 August. The idea will be for him to visit the Copan ruins early in the morning of 26 October. President Gaviria is keenly interested in these ruins as an archaeological site and mankind's patrimony. In the afternoon, Presidents Gaviria and Callejas will meet to discuss the relations between the two countries; later the two presidents will receive Tegucigalpa businessmen and high government officials to discuss the possibility of expanding trade and stimulating Colombian investment in Honduras. President Gaviria will be invited to a dinner in his honor the night of 26 October during which he will be decorated with the Francisco Morazan Order.

Our relations with Colombia are very good. I visited Bogota in November of last year. President Callejas met with Gaviria in San Andres in June. We have an entire working program that I think will work for the Honduran people's immediate good. As I said before, one of the purposes is to open the Colombian market and, particularly, bring Colombian investment to Honduras.

Colombia's investments in Panama and Costa Rica are already worth millions. Colombia not only can invest in Honduras, but it can give us technical advice in many fields where it has made great progress in training its professionals. One of the important points in our agenda is to establish relations between the National Institute of Professional Training [INFOP] and Colombia's National Learning Service. We intend to have Colombian experts hold workshops in Honduras in 1994, as well as to send Honduran monitors and assistant professors from INFOP and similar institutes to Colombia, because this is an advanced and experienced country that speaks the same language. This professional training relationship with Colombia will create great opportunities for the Honduran labor force and strengthen the country's economic growth.

[Sarmiento] Finally, Mr. Foreign Minister, now that we are nearing elections for a new constitutional government, I would like you to speak briefly on the foreign service's role in development, a role which President Callejas mentioned in his inauguration speech and which has led to good relations between Honduras and other countries.

[Carias] We are very satisfied. The Honduran people can testify to the fact that we have opened previously closed channels of communication. Bear in mind that our relations with Mexico were very tense several years ago. The Mexican ambassador was virtually expelled from the country in 1988. Relations with the Venezuelan ambassador and U.S. Ambassador Arcos were not good, either. The latter, however, later found great support in the Liberal Party. You will recall that he did not present his credentials to President Azcona because there was a strong disagreement with the previous government—namely, that Honduras had been severely criticized over the human rights situation and that no additional ways for cooperation with other countries could be explored because of what I regard as a policy that was too closed and biased. This was Honduras' relationship with other countries.

All of this has been completely overcome. Political and finance credit has been improved. Relations with all of the countries I mentioned earlier, such as Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, the United States, Canada, the Southern Cone countries, and the European Community are excellent. In addition, the relations with the San Jose conference are good and improving. Resources available to Honduras from the European countries have increased.

Also, cooperation with Japan has been complemented by good cooperation with the ROK. We also intend to secure cooperation agreements with Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia—in other words, the ASEAN member-states. We already have traditional cooperation with Taiwan, which has improved greatly. You will recall that in past years all we had was a parade of high Honduran officials, Congress members, and personalities who had been invited to visit Taiwan. Yet we did not have a stable economic cooperation system, whereby we could jointly design projects of common interest. Now we have a Taiwanese-Central American joint commission created as the result of President Callejas' talks with President Li Teng-hui. A number of projects profit from Taiwan's support. Taiwan has been incorporated into the Central American Bank. There is a broad range of initiatives for mutual benefit.

Also, it is important to keep in mind that during the present administration we established new diplomatic relations which, on a mid-term basis, will yield positive economic results for Honduras. I am talking about the establishment of diplomatic relations with Russia and resuming relations with Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Romania. In addition, we established relations with Arab countries. We have a permanent ambassador to both Cairo and Kuwait. The latter already has an economic presence in the Comayagua Valley, as well as being involved in other projects.

In the end, we will expand our relations with Arab nations without neglecting our usual friendly relations with Israel. We also have good relations with Caribbean countries. Although this entails some disagreements, as happened in the banana trade issue, these good relations will make it possible for us to increase our exports to the Caribbean states.

Nicaragua

3-80 Northern Front Said Disintegrated; EPS Colonel Cited

PA2310150393 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Oct 93 p 16

[Report by Martha Marina Gonzalez]

[Text] Esteli—The 3-80 Northern Front has disintegrated with "El Chacal's" [Jose Angel Talavera] departure to Honduran territory. Now, "there is not a single consistent front of irregular forces," Colonel Javier Carrion, second chief of staff of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, General Command, said here on 21 October.

He added that the offensive announced by "El Chacal" did not materialize due to the presence of EPS troops. This has made it possible to replenish supplies in the Murra and Quilali areas, where traffic was paralyzed due to threats from the irregular forces. The glass of milk program was also resumed with support from the EPS troops, he said.

Carrion said that the EPS Command has contacted Honduran military authorities and has reinforced security at the border to prevent the incursion of irregular groups to that country.

During a news conference, Carrion said that security has been practically restored in the departments of Madriz, Nueva Segovia, and Esteli but did not rule out the possibility of more terrorist actions.

He also reported that there have been minor clashes in the areas of Quilali, Murra, San Juan del Rio Coco, and Wiwili during the past few days in which three members of the irregular forces were killed and several wounded. He confirmed that there have been several desertions within the 3-80 Northern Front.

According to Carrion, some 200 rebels are dispersed in Regions One and Six; approximately 100 fled with El Chacal, and between 20 and 30 are still in what used to be the El Zungano security zone, evading clashes with EPS troops.

Desires Talks With Government

PA2310165293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0930 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Report by Filadelfo Martinez]

[Text] Managua, 23 October (EFE)—Commanders of the 3-80 Northern Front have announced their desire to hold talks with the Chamorro government, while the Army continued its offensive against rearmed groups in

the mountains of northern Nicaragua. Meanwhile, Catholic bishops in northern Nicaragua warned on 22 October that the Army, in its offensive against the rebels, "has caused fear among peasants, who are abandoning their land, which in turn is disintegrating families."

Early this month, the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, launched an offensive against some 500 rearmed men who became outlaws after refusing to lay down their weapons within the period established by the amnesty law decreed to consolidate peace in the country.

The 3-80 Northern Front, which consists of 16 rebel "commanders" headed by "Charrito," "Chaparro," and "Musun," among others, had rejected the amnesty decreed by Chamorro, saying it was a maneuver to wear out the rearmed former "contras," known as "recontras." Alberto Blandon, representative of the Verification Commission in the northern region headed by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, said on 22 October that "Musun" is one of the rebel "commanders" who now wants to hold talks with the Managua Government. Blandon said "Musun" has requested the presence of delegates from the Verification Commission in the Las Brisas and Yaosca sectors in Matagalpa Department to request the government's resumption of dialogue.

Although the points presented by the Northern Front "commanders" to resume the talks with the government have not been disclosed, it was learned that the Managua government has not replied to their proposal. Yesterday, delegates from Cardinal Obando y Bravo's commission and from the OAS International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV-OAS) traveled to San Juan del Norte, where heavy fighting between the rearmed rebels and the Army had resulted in several deaths.

According to military sources, "disbanded and demoralized" forces led by Jose Angel Talavera, alias "Chacal," are fleeing to southern Honduras, which has made the Honduran Army reinforce the border. Meanwhile, it was reported in Tegucigalpa that a group of 59 Nicaraguan adults and 77 children requested asylum in Honduras, fleeing violence in northern Nicaragua.

Bishops in the northern region issued a declaration in which they asked the Chamorro government to do everything possible to prevent the generalization of violence in that region, affected by war in the past. Monsignor Juan Abelardo Mata, Monsignor Jose Leopoldo Brenes, and Monsignor Pedro Antonio Vilchez, bishops of Esteli, Matagalpa, and Jinotega respectively, have deplored "the reactivation of a militaristic culture in the country's northern region." The bishops said that noncompliance with previously signed agreements by certain government institutions has created distrust in the affected groups, which has led to violence.

The prelates added that certain political, social, and economic measures that do not respond to the people's needs have caused frustration, capital flight, delayed investments, and a new immigration of youths. According to the bishops, the amnesty decreed by the government has favored impunity and "the language used by certain media sources has encouraged verbal terrorism, insidiously promoting death and armed confrontation."

Dignity Command Leader, 110 Rebels Surrender in Matagalpa

PA2410005993 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Oct 93 pp 1, 10

[Text] Matagalpa—Former Major Donald Mendoza, who led the group that held UNO Political Council members hostage in Managua, laid down his arms in Matagalpa yesterday along with 110 of his men. Mendoza surrendered his weapons after Sandinist People's Army [EPS] troops had surrounded the city. The presence of the former EPS officer and his men, who had been in the city for the past two weeks, alarmed local citizens who feared an incident similar to the occupation of Esteli by Pedrito [Victor Manuel Gallego Hernandez]. The presence of Commander 31 [Mendoza's nom de guerre] in public places prompted all kinds of rumors and speculation. On Wednesday, for example, Mendoza visited a bank in Matagalpa. Immediately, people spread the rumor that he would attack the bank with his men, who were staying at the Special Disarmament Brigade quarters.

The EPS had virtually surrounded the city for the past two days. EPS troops occupied the main hills around Matagalpa and blocked the main roads leading into the city. The scenario appeared rife for an imminent confrontation. Nothing of the sort happened, however. The members of the National Sovereignty and Dignity Command surrendered their arms to "contribute" to peace and stability in Nicaragua, according to Mendoza, who handed over his rifle to government delegate Mario Amador.

Mendoza said now that he and his men have surrendered their arms, he will work with the government in an attempt to revise all of the agreements signed with the various rebel groups and EPS members who have retired through the various discharge plans. He also said that, as a civilian, he will take care of his family and work in La Florida—a coffee farm between El Tuma and La Dalia in Matagalpa, which Mendoza jointly owns with other EPS retirees.

FRG Officials Question Effectiveness of Aid to Managua

PA2310024993 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Oct 93 p 5

[Report by Alfonso Malespin]

[Text] Bonn—The German Government is unwilling to give Nicaragua "preferential treatment" on its foreign debt and even less willing to condone Nicaragua's debt with the former GDR, which adds up to a "three digit"

figure in terms of millions of dollars, according to what experts consulted by this newspaper said.

"Nicaragua should pay every cent it owes," Dr. Klaus Fertig said. Fertig is responsible for the German-South American Bank's relations with Latin America.

Germans who studied the Nicaraguan case concluded that they should not grant privileged treatment to the debt contracted with the former GDR because this debt was not of a military nature.

Both Heinrich Haupt and Klaus Dieter von Horn, high-ranking German Government officials, believe Nicaragua should not continue asking—and much less receiving—"preferential treatment" from the international community unless "factions (in Nicaragua) arrive soon at a basic understanding." Both officials believe that efforts by donor countries are only valid for a specific timeframe. "True help is economic recovery," said Haupt, assistant director to the Latin American Department of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. von Horn said: "In addition, (foreign) aid only makes sense if there is domestic stability. Without internal stability it does no good to have the willingness to help them." Von Horn is director of the Latin America Relations Section of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to both officials, only internal stability will attract "true development aid, and this will not arrive until there are investments... which will not take place until there is a minimum of understanding between political forces."

Disillusion and caution—this is the mood that prevails in official FRG Government circles when one tries to discuss the government headed by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. No one in Germany can understand how politicians in such a impoverished country as Nicaragua "still have the luxury of avoiding the road to development knowing that none of them have a majority," Von Horn commented.

"That is why that government has less and less credibility," Haupt confided. The lack of substantial headway over the past three years has produced "donors fatigue" [preceding two words in English], added Haupt, who served in the German Embassy in Managua between 1990-92. According to Haupt: "Nicaragua has promised much and delivered very little. Institutions are inoperable and politicians do not deal with the problems—namely, unemployment, health, and the environment. They only worry about their share of power."

In 1991, Nicaragua received 100 million German marks [DM] from the FRG, the highest amount for a Latin American country. A year later it was down to DM70 million, and now it is at DM55 million. In 1994 it will be even less, but it will still be the third largest German foreign aid to any Latin American country, behind only Peru and Bolivia.

According to the two high-ranking German officials, Chamorro's economic cabinet "has understood" the reasons for the reduction. "One could not expect that (the level of) these efforts could be maintained for many years," explained Von Horn.

"Foreign aid can only be temporary," he added. According to Von Horn the reduction in aid does not reflect a sanction. "What is happening is that there are new German economic guidelines," he explained.

The other reason is that "Latin America is no longer a priority," according to Von Horn. Efforts are now mainly directed toward India, Egypt, Nigeria, and Russia.

"Bolivia, in fact, is a much better prospect (for German money) than Nicaragua," the high-ranking official said. The reason: "In Bolivia there is a minimum of stability and a national effort to transfer from adjustment to development."

The only thing that could help dispel the high disillusion felt in the FRG would be to find out that "Nicaraguan politicians are at last willing to give their country a new image."

We asked Mr. Haupt what will happen while this takes place?

"Well, everyone here will be asking more and more insistently whether it is worthwhile sending money that our citizens pay (as tax payers) to a country unwilling to live up to the expectations it encouraged within the international community," answered Haupt.

Nicaragua is a country that cannot afford not to develop. It should dialogue and reach agreements now," concluded Dr. von Horn.

Panama

Teachers End Strike; Classes Resuming 25 Oct

PA2210131593 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Sixty-four days after the teachers and professors declared a strike, the rank and file, meeting in a general assembly, unanimously gave a vote of confidence to their leaders and authorized the signing of an agreement with the government, thus ending the strike. This followed a Cabinet Council meeting's study and subsequent reply to the strikers' counterproposal. Thanks to this decision, classes in government schools will resume on 25 October.

An agreement will be signed with President Guillermo Endara tomorrow. But it will not specify that teachers and professors will be paid for the eight weeks when they did not report for work. The agreement provides for advance pay prior to taking one month of leave, annual salary increases effective October 1994 and with due consideration to seniority, no reprisals for the recent

action, and beginning the 1994 school year after the presidential elections. The 1993 school year will be extended until March 1994 and will include Christmas leave.

[Begin recording] [Nestor Mendez, National Coordinating Board for the Vindication of Panamanian Teachers] We still can resort to legal action to fight for our rights. A document has been filed at the Supreme Court of Justice challenging the legality of Resolution 2259, which Teacher Alarcon [Panama's education minister] fabricated to withhold our salaries. No decision has yet been made on this document. We cannot accept Alarcon's stand because it does constitutes reprisal.

[Domingo Sanchez, secretary general of the Association of Professors of the Republic] Although we will sign an agreement tomorrow, we must report at this assembly the stand taken by the Executive and the minister of education. A permanent record must be established that the teachers' unions that Marco Alarcon tried to destroy are somewhat battered but not destroyed. We must feel stronger and not let the movement's spine be broken.

[Alarcon] Anyway, an agreement signed by the negotiating commission has much less authority and effect than a document bearing the signatures of the president of the Republic and the education minister. [end recording]

The teachers and professors are now waiting to see if President Endara will veto Law 30 on the salary increase, already approved by the Legislative Assembly. This law will be considered by the Supreme Court of Justice. If it is declared constitutional, it will enter into force. Otherwise, these new agreements will be proposed.

Teachers, Government Sign Accord

PA2310030893 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Report by Alexandra Ciniglio from the Education Ministry Building in Panama City; from the "RPC Television News" newscast—live relay]

[Text] We are in the Education Ministry where only a few minutes ago the national government and teachers representatives signed an agreement ending the 76-day strike that canceled classes in public schools nationwide. Both parties held a closed-door session for more than seven hours, giving final touches to the document. Apparently the signing of the document was delayed because on more than four occasions the meeting was interrupted by Education Minister Marcos Alarcon, who did not agree with certain aspects of the accord, including those concerning nonreprisals, according to teacher representatives.

We must recall that this agreement will be presented as a draft bill if the Supreme Court declares unconstitutional the draft bill granting wage hikes to the teachers. The agreement now establishes the payment of one month's pay in advance, and, for the month of October, the annual pay increase will go into effect, pending time in service.

At this moment, in the room adjoining ours, the educators are staging a protest against Education Minister Marcos Alarcon, while the negotiating commission is signing the agreement. Right now it is difficult to hold a conversation, because there are a lot of teachers who are staging this protest. We will give you a later report in our cast.

Canal Workers' Union Opposes Constitutional Reforms

PA2210164493 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Oct 93 p 18A

[Report by Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] Yesterday, the Coalition of Canal Commission Workers Unions [Coalicion de Uniones de Trabajadores de la Comision del Canal] which is affiliated with the AFL-CIO, expressed its categorical opposition to constitutional reforms endorsed by the national government as related to Canal matters, specifically labor issues.

In a communique addressed to the country, signed by Captain Felipe Joseph Solis (IOMM&P); Orlando Diaz (NMU); Ethelbert Mapp (MTC); Londor Rankin (PCPB); Antonio Regis [MEBA), and Raul Barrera (Firefighters) [expansions unknown], the labor unions pointed out that they will not relinquish any rights acquired through the national constitution and international agreements.

The communique states that "we are prepared to take any action we may consider necessary and within the law in order to defend those rights, which we believe to be sacred."

The position was adopted by the leaders of the aforementioned coalition after their evaluation of the Constitutional Reforms on Canal Administration proposals and recommendations by various subcommittees, as published in the national press.

Among other points, the coalition believes that too many wide-ranging powers are being conferred on the Board of Directors, for example, as pertaining to employment issues where there is an initiative to prepare internal administrative regulations for solving labor disputes.

They warn that the Board of Directors can change this initiative at its discretion, a condition that eliminates the system that now regulates employer-employee relations within the Panama Canal Commission.

Secondly, they state that no Canal employee representative would be a member of the Board of Directors which, in their opinion, means that labor force interests are not duly represented.

Likewise, the absence of adequate limitations and restrictions in some aspects is of concern given the possibility of a dismemberment and dispersion of the Canal's monolithic activities which are currently carried out by a labor force aware of its responsibilities, duly trained, and experienced.

In the fourth place [enumeration as published], they warn that they will not allow the elimination of unions in accordance with Recommendation Number 9 of the Human Resources Subcommittee that intends to "study establishing an internal organization which will replace unions and represent employers and employees in management-worker relations."

The document adds that this action would limit current union leaders from continuing to function as representatives of a union organization and would curtail any claim to present their opinions as a union before the new "Canal Authority" or any other equivalent authorities.

Ministers Deny Reports on Legislator's Handling of Funds

PA2210232493 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Oct 93

[From "The RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] Planning Minister Delia Cardenas and Finance Minister Mario Galindo have both denied reports concerning the handling of $300,000 of state funds by Legislator Anel Ramirez.

The president of the Legislative Assembly's Budget Commission has summoned Cardenas, Galindo, and Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles to a meeting with the commission on 21 October so that they can explain why Legislator Anel Ramirez, who was arrested due to his alleged involvement in drug trafficking, had used approximately $300,000 to purchase 150 kg of cocaine.

Galindo and Cardenas confirmed on 20 October that they will attend the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Mario Galindo] That simply is not true. He has not handled a single cent of state funds.

[Unidentified reporter] Why did he say this?

[Galindo] I do not know why he said it, but I have confirmed this fact with the comptroller general. I also have made every possible inquiry at the Finance and Planning Ministries, because we the directors of these three institutions have been summoned for tomorrow. I can assert, without any doubt whatsoever, that the state did not give Legislator Ramirez even half a penny for anything.

[Reporter] Are allotments like these ever given to anyone?

[Galindo] To no one.

[Delia Cardenas] The government's policy has been and still is not to pay any project that has not been built; consequently, certain projects for circuit 5-2 have not even been put out on bid, and not a single nickel has been laid out for those for which there are purchase orders. This is exactly what I will tell the commission. [end recording]

Progovernment Legislators Support Verdict Against Noriega

PA2510015493 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Oct 93 p 5A

[Article by Heres Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Progovernment legislators described as "correct" the ruling by the Third Superior Court of Chiriqui which sentenced Manuel Antonio Noriega as well as two of his subordinates—Francisco Eliecer Bonilla, alias, Bruce Lee; and Julio Cesar Miranda, alias Munecon—to 20 years in prison for the murder of Hugo Spadafora.

Legislator Arnulfo Escalona, one of the private prosecutors of the Spadafora family, pointed out to LA PRENSA that the dossier had sufficient evidence for sentencing the former chief of the former Defense Forces. Escalona said there is not the slightest doubt that Spadafora's murder was the result of a plan prepared by the military apparatus created by Noriega to eliminate his political enemies.

Ecalona said: "I feel justice has been served. Definitely, the judges clearly determined that Hugo Spadafora's murder was planned and carried out in agreement with the other seven military officers who were released."

Noriega, Miranda, and Gonzalez Bonilla requested a trial by judges. The other men implicated in the crime—Luis Cordoba, Eliecer Rivera, Mario del Cid, Demetrio Rodriguez, Agustin de Gracia, Jorge Villa, and Adan Pitti Guerra—were found not guilty on 6 September by a jury.

Miguel Bush, legislator from the Democratic Revolutionary Party, told LA PRENSA that the criminal responsibility of Bruce Lee and Munecon Miranda was clearly shown during the trial, but it was also shown that there was no evidence to incriminate Noriega.

Bush described the verdict as political, because all of the judges are trying to save face following the error made by the Supreme Court of Justice with the questionnaire it sent to the members of the jury who absolved the seven military officers.

Milton Henriquez, legislator for the Christian Democratic Party, said Panamanians feel the least that could be done was to convict Noriega for being the person mainly responsible for the "horrible murder" of Hugo Spadafora.

Despite everything else, Henriquez added, it cannot be said that "this ruling erases the bitterness all Panamanians feel when seeing accomplices getting off scot-free and boasting about it."

Miguel Cardenas, of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, said he is not surprised by the verdict inasmuch as the dossier clearly showed Manuel Antonio Noriega was guilty.

Argentina

Date for Constitutional Reform Plebiscite Set for 21 Nov

PY2210135993 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1236 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Oct (NA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem this morning signed the decree calling for a plebiscite on constitutional reform to be held on 21 November 1993.

Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf announced this shortly after 0900 local time [1200 GMT]. The minister told journalists accredited to the Olivos presidential residence that the president had instructed him to make this announcement before leaving for Rio Negro Province where Menem will preside over a number of official activities.

Reaction to Planned Plebiscite

PY2310221693 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Oct 93 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] (DYN-NA)—In the wake of the Senate's approval of the constitutional reform bill on Thursday [21 October], President Carlos Menem yesterday embarked on the next step towards securing his re-election ambitions by officially calling a nonbinding plebiscite to be held on November 21.

"Opinion polls show 65 percent in favour (of reform) and marginally less for re-election. But if the public say no, I will be the first to drop the subject," Menem said in an interview on state television channel ATC yesterday.

When asked how he would react to a possible failure in the plebiscite, the head of state replied, "(in that case) I will wait for six years and return in the year 2001."

Nevertheless, Senate Provisional President Eduardo Menem expressed his surprise yesterday at the decision to consult the public, confessing he was not totally convinced of the merits of the idea. He suggested that anything less than a 50 percent approval would be damaging for the government.

Amid the euphoria of Thursday's Senate approval of the constitutional reform bill, however, Radical Senator Fernando de la Rua blasted the call for a referendum, saying "This only serves to stifle what should have been today's debate—the approval of that awful bill discussed last night in the Senate."

The presidential decree to hold a national plebiscite, signed yesterday by Menem in his Olivos residence, is the first of its type to be issued since former Radical president Raul Alfonsin consulted the public on the dispute with Chile over the Beagle Channel in 1984.

Alfonsin was taken aback by Menem's announcement yesterday and subsequently called for the Radical Party's internal leadership elections, originally planned for November 12, to be postponed until after the plebiscite.

"We must be ready to defend our democratic institutions and maintain a clear stance," said Alfonsin in explaining the reasons behind his decision.

Radical Deputy Gaston Ortiz Maldonado backed Alfonsin's stance and called upon his party to unite against what he called "the Menemist circus and its delirium for self-perpetuation."

Radical Deputy Leopoldo Moreau branded the plebiscite a farce, saying "if the government was really interested in what the people think, it would have called the vote before the Senate discussed the bill."

However, Rio Negro Governor Horacio Massaccesi, who is in favor of reform, yesterday warned the Radical Party of the dangers inherent in calling for outright opposition to the reform programme.

"The government is wrong in not creating an institutional climate for reform and is clouding the issue with re-election," he said, but referring to Radical Party policy, Massaccesi added, "to react to reform by obstructing the initiative is another sign of the pathological state of the current political atmosphere."

Massaccesi concluded that the Radicals were not a reformist party "for if they were, they would have set a number of conditions for accepting the proposals, and they aren't exactly doing this."

In further reaction yesterday to the prospect of presidential re-election becoming reality, businessman Mauricio Macri backed Menem, comparing the running of a country to managing a business. With this analogy in mind, he claimed that it would be nonsensical to ditch a good manager and opt for an untried leader who might jeopardize economic stability.

Elsewhere, General Labour Confederation cosecretary Ramon Baldassini also gave Menem his support, asserting that the chance of re-election was a right enjoyed in almost all modern democracies. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Constitutional Amendment Bill Approved by Senate

PY2210203393 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Oct (NA)—This is the text of a bill that declares the need for a constitutional reform, which was approved by the Senate and submitted to the Chamber of Deputies for discussion:

Article 1

The partial reform of the 1853 Constitution, including the reforms introduced in 1860, 1866, 1898, and 1957, is hereby declared necessary.

Article 2

Pursuant to the preceding article's provision, the national executive branch will call the people of the Republic, within a 90-day period after the promulgation of this law, in order to resolve the following:

A. To amend the following articles: 45, 48, 55, and 67; Clauses 6, 23, 26, 68-72, 76-78, 80, 81, and 86; Clauses 2-4, 11, 15, 19, 21, and 87; and change the title "Single Chapter" to "Chapter One;"

B. To abolish the following articles: 67, Clause 20; and 86, clauses 8 and 9; and

C. To add:

I. After Article 35, as Chapter Two of Part One, a new article named "Other rights and guarantees" that will deal with the following topics:

1. Environmental preservation.

2. Forms of semidirect democracy [democracia semidirecta].

3. A system for amendment for just one article of the national Constitution.

4. Promotion of international integration.

5. Health care.

6. Explicit establishment of the writ of habeas corpus and writ of amparo.

7. Defense of the competition system, users, and consumers.

8. Federal intervention in provinces.

II. In Part Two, after Article 103, as Section Four: a new chapter named "Concerning consultation and control offices [organos]" that will deal with the following topics:

1. National Auditing Office.

2. Ombudsman.

3. Economic and Social Council.

Article 3

Each province and the federal capital will elect a number of constituent assembly members equal to the total number of legislators elected for Congress and in equal proportion.

Article 4

The constituent assembly members will be elected in accordance with the procedure applicable to federal deputies and the current D'Hont proportional representation system.

Article 5

The same conditions to become a federal deputy are required to become a constituent assembly member. This post is incompatible with those of the national judicial branch and provincial judicial branch members only.

Article 6

The constituent assembly will begin its activities within a 60-day period after the election of the constituent assembly members and must end its assignment within a 120-day period that may not be extended.

The assembly's venue will be the city of Parana in Entre Rios Province.

Article 7

The constituent assembly will be the final judge concerning the validity of the election, rights, and titles of its members. It will be governed by the Chamber of Deputies' internal rules and regulations. Notwithstanding, the constituent assembly is entitled to change the rules and regulations in order to facilitate its activities.

Article 8

Constituent assembly members will enjoy, as of the day they are elected and for the duration of their term in office, prerogatives and immunities proper to Congress members. Constituent assembly members will collect, for the duration of their term in office, compensation equivalent to that collected by federal deputies.

Article 9

The constituent assembly is entitled to renumber and reconcile the names of the national Constitution's titles and chapters arising from the reform. The constituent assembly will respect the terms of office that are current by the promulgation of the new constitution that this constituent assembly will sanction.

Article 10

All the reforms, abolishments, and additions that the constituent assembly conducts outside the jurisdiction established in Article 2 of this law or after the deadline established in Article 6 will be absolutely null and void.

Article 11

The national executive branch is hereby authorized to incur all the expenditures required by the enactment of this law, charging them to the "general revenues" account.

Article 12

Let it be known by the Executive Branch.

Catholic Leaders Support Constitutional Reform

PY2210224693 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Oct 93 p 13

[Text] (DYN)—Leaders of the Catholic Church expressed their support for the government-sponsored constitutional reform during the annual synod yesterday.

"The Church does not oppose reform because in all countries, including ours, there have already been reforms and constitutional changes," said Monsignor Italo Di Stefano, the head of the Social-Pastoral Work Team, highlighting the possibility of reform bringing about greater "peace and harmony" in the country.

Di Stefano stated his opinion before entering the gathering of bishops, which is slated to study a draft on the Church's position regarding constitutional reform prepared by a group of bishops.

Church officials, who are keeping quiet on the report prepared by a commission made up of bishops and headed by Cardinal Raul Primatesta, indicated that they won't make any further comments until Congress makes a decision on the issue.

Also during the assembly held in San Miguel, Cardinal Antonio Quarracino was re-elected to head Argentina's Catholic Church for three more years.

Although Quarracino has traditionally had good relations with President Carlos Menem and his administration he has often criticized the government about the social costs resulting from economic adjustment.

Minister to U.S. in Attempt To Change Decision on Fighters

PY2410003493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2119 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Oct (EFE)—Argentine Defense Minister Oscar Camilion will travel to Washington on 25 October to reiterate to the U.S. Government that Argentina wants to buy 36 A-4M "Skyhawk" fighters, a transaction that Great Britain has opposed because it entails rearming the Argentine Air Force.

A Defense Ministry source—who asked to remain anonymous—told EFE on 23 October that Camilion will h' 'd "one or two" meetings with his U.S. counterpart, Les Aspin, in which he will try to "change" the decision by the Pentagon, which took Britain's claims into account.

Camilion reported that Great Britain has asked the United States, its main partner in NATO, not to sell the planes to Argentina.

Camilion last week warned that his government can resort to "other markets" to buy radars and missiles for the Skyhawks, which is the reason why the British have opposed the deal.

Production of the A-4M was discontinued in 1975, and four years later the United States took them out of service. The planes that Argentina wants to buy, however, are fitted with the latest generation "Westinghouse" radars and "Sidewinder" and "Maverick" missiles, which are used by more modern planes.

London considers that those planes will give Argentina an offensive power similar to the one it had before the Malvinas war in 1982, when the Argentines lost some 80 combat planes.

Camilion has rejected the offer to buy "stripped" planes, the source told EFE, emphasizing that Israel can supply "either Kfir planes or the radars and missiles that they do not want to sell us, thus allowing us to close the deal with the United States for the 36 planes without any equipment."

United CGT To Approve New Statutes, Hold Elections

PY2310182693 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 20 Oct 93 p 10

[Report by Diego Schurman]

[Text] A labor leader from President Carlos Menem's "Friends' Club" will be Naldo Brunelli's successor at the CGT [General Confederation of Labor]. The decision was confirmed to PAGINA 12 yesterday by ultra-Menemists and "elephants" who heard Brunelli talking about the UOM [Metalworkers Union] decision "not to contest the CGT secretary general position." The names now being mentioned as possible candidates to head the CGT include National Sanitary Works leader Ruben Pereyra and municipal union leader Alfredo Atanassof. Other news concerns the return to the CGT of UTA [Motor Transport Workers Union] leader Juan Manuel Palacios who brings with him the other transport unions (UGTT) [Trade Union of Transportation Workers]. In any event, the question as to who will lead the CGT will not be answered until at least the second half of November. Tomorrow's CGT executive board meeting will convene a special congress for that period to elect the new leadership.

An important "Friends Club" member told this newspaper that Brunelli's desertion—even though he publicly maintains his candidacy—is due more to political than labor reasons. "The 3 October election result, and what can be felt in the streets following President Menem's surgery, has given the president and his reelection project a victory over Eduardo Duhalde," with whom Brunelli and the rest of the "elephants" are identified.

For the latter, heads of large corporations, "the fact that Brunelli dropped from the race looks more like an internal competition with Lorenzo Miguel than a personal decision."

However, the initial agreement reached at the mercantile union headquarters yesterday, cools down a dispute that

was pushing the CGT to the edge of a split. "Now there are practically no differences," Argentine Railways Union leader Jose Pedraza said when leaving Armando Cavalieri's union building. Both groups met with Health Minister Alberto Mazza to definitively shelve the project deregulating social works. "We do not want to be just one more CGT but a CGT with definition finding concrete solutions to problems," Cavalieri said.

Among the main points included in the truce that union leaders signed yesterday there is a reiteration of the need for a leadership with an "independent" profile. That is beyond the fact that a staunch Menemist might be elected and the congress that will put things in place is scheduled for November. The most likely date for that congress is 17 November, the 21st anniversary of Juan Domingo Peron's return to Argentina. Some labor leaders said, however, that the event might be "postponed for a few days if there are organization problems," although it will be in November.

That day the congress will approve the reform of CGT statutes, the return of a 22 member executive—almost half the current numbers—and a general secretariat of 11 members. Added to these decisions is the election of a secretary, which worries the two labor factions which are now concerned about adding a long list of new candidates to the list of the worn-out names of Brunelli and super-officialist Ruben Pereyra. The candidacy that surprised leaders the most is that of Palacios, whose union bolted the CGT following the 1992 North Park unifying act. "It could be interpreted that we belong to a third faction because we have been on the sidelines and we do not have commitments with anyone," Palacios said, sure of the power that holds the person leading the strategic group of transport unions.

Bolivia

Nicaraguan Ibarra Recaptured While Trying To Flee

PY2210140893 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Antonio Jose Ibarra yesterday tried to escape from house arrest in Cochabamba but was recaptured by Unit 110 of the Highway Police Patrol. [passage omitted]

At about 1700 yesterday, Antonio Jose Maria Ibarra fooled police [words indistinct] tried to escape from Cochabamba and was arrested in a brilliant operation by patrol cars. [Words indistinct] trying to fill the fuel tank of his car. Antonio Jose Maria Ibarra was accompanied by his wife [words indistinct]. In a blue Ford station wagon [word indistinct], license number CQJ 656.

The police operation requested assistance [words indistinct] recaptured Antonio Jose Maria Ibarra and took him back to his home, which is now under strict police control.

Former Justice Galindo Says Video 'Not Conclusive Proof'

PY2310163293 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Former Justice Hugo Galindo Decker yesterday gave a news conference in room No. 6 of the Virgen de Asuncion Clinic, located in San Jorge neighborhood. During the news conference Galindo Decker retracted the statement he had made to the district attorney. He first referred to the video tape submitted by the government and La Paz District Attorney's Office on the bribery case, stating that it is not conclusive proof. He said:

[Begin recording] That video is a montage. It is out of context, and therefore it does not convey the whole picture. It only shows what is necessary to incriminate certain people. The truth is that I was conversing with [Antonio Jose] Ibarra because I had gone to his home to collect my professional fee—that $15,000 was my fee. I went to his home because he was under house arrest. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] I talked with Chief Justice Edgar Oblitas to discuss this issue from a legal standpoint because it was my considered opinion that, legally speaking, the case was very simple—there is no extradition treaty with Nicaragua. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

In Nicaragua there are two monsters—the monster of poetry, Ruben Dario, and the monster of untruthfulness, Ibarra, because he is a liar. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] I am not going to say anything else because I hold Dr. Oblitas in high respect. I am going to tell the whole truth in court. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Supreme Court Communique Rejects 'Slanderous' Charges

PY2310143893 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] In Sucre, [Justice] Dr. Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas has read a communique addressed to the people of Bolivia. The following is the text of the communique issued by the Judicial Branch in Sucre:

In light of a series of remarks and unscrupulous charges which have been raised during the past few days, the most excellent Bolivian Supreme Court of Justice's honorable plenary totally rejects these charges, describing them as hasty and slanderous.

The Supreme Court also confirms that all the Supreme Court members are discharging their duties, strictly and effectively abiding by the law, beyond any noxious influence.

In conclusion, the Supreme Court asks the executive and legislative branches to act with absolute moderation and

lawfulness, sparing any abuses that may damage the dignity of one of the most important branches of our nation.

Signed by Dr. Edgar Oblitas Fernandez, president; Dr. Gualberto Davalos Garcia, justice secretary; Dr. Ernesto Poppe Zubieta, justice under secretary; and Justices Dr. Edgar Rosales Lijeron, Dr. Hugo Dellien Barba, Dr. Antonio Salazar Soriano, Dr. Carlos Azad Arce, Dr. Luis Adolfo Salinas, Dr. Hugo Cesar Cadima Maldonado, Dr. Oscar Hassenteufel Salazar, and Dr. Guillermo Arancibia Lopez.

This Supreme Court communique fully supports Supreme Court President Edgar Oblitas and Supreme Court Justice Ernesto Poppe.

Brazil

Diplomatic Status Granted to PLO Bureau; Qaddumi To Visit

PY2210131593 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Itamaraty has granted diplomatic status to the PLO bureau that has been operating in Brazil for some time. This information was passed to PLO Foreign Minister Faruk Qaddumi by Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim in Paris.

Qaddumi will visit Brazil before the end of this year to discuss the new status in the relations between the PLO and the Brazilian Government following the peace agreement signed by the PLO and Israel.

Former Budget Director Confirms Corruption Charges

PY2210170493 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Oct 93 p A4

[Text] Brasilia—Economist Jose Carlos Alves dos Santos, former director of the Federal Budget Department (DOU) and former Senate adviser, yesterday confirmed as he testified before a budget CPI [Congressional Investigative Committee] his charges against some congressmen, ministers, and governors in a scheme to swindle public funds. Jose Carlos told the CPI that he has documents to prove his charges. He said that the Ministries of Education, Social Action, and Planning were the institutions in which the greatest embezzlement of funds has been committed.

During the first 30 minutes of his testimony before the CPI, he incriminated Civilian Household Minister Henrique Hargreaves, Deputies Joao Alves (PPR-BA) [Progressive Renewal Party—Bahia], Ricardo Fiuza (PFL-PE) [Liberal Front Party—Pernambuco], Genebaldo Correia (PMDB-BA) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], Fernes Nader (PTB-RJ) [Brazilian Labor Party—Rio de Janeiro], Fabio Raunheitti (PTB-RJ), Cid Carvalho (PMDB-MA) [PMDB-Maranhao], and Jose Geraldo (PMDB-MA), and he mentioned the name of Jose Geraldo Guerra (PSB-PE) [Brazilian Socialist Party—Pernambuco]. He also confirmed the involvement of construction companies in the scheme.

The economist entered the CPI audience hall at 1819 amid an atmosphere of great expectation. He arrived surrounded by security guards and was introduced to the CPI by its president, Senator Jarbas Passarinho (PPR-PA) [PPR-Parana]. Jose Carlos answered the initial questions with a firm voice during the first part of his testimony. Later, when his crimes were read by CPI Vice President Deputy Odacir Klein (PMDB-RS) [PMDB-Rio Grande do Sul], he lowered his tone. He answered all Klein's incriminating questions in a scarcely audible voice.

CPI sponsor Roberto Magalhaes (PFL-PE) then posed the question most awaited by the congressmen, media, and public in the audience hall. He said: "Do you confirm what you said during the interview granted to VEJA magazine?" To which he answered: "I read it very quickly, but in general I confirm what is written in that interview." Asked if he has evidence to prove the charges he made, Jose Carlos answered: "I witnessed many of the cases, but I clarify that the interview was very fast, clumsy, and disorganized, and I read the article very fast."

Magalhaes insisted: "Can you prove your charges?" To which Jose Carlos answered: "I heard about of some of the cases from Deputy Joao Alves, and other cases can be verified through documents that are in some ministries, in addition to my own testimony." Jose Carlos then added that Deputy Joao Alves participated in an embezzlement scheme of social subsidies but clarified that they did not involve normal subsidies for congressmen, but general funds which the scheme labeled as subsidies within the National Budget. Asked which construction companies were involved in the scheme, he answered: "Practically all of them."

Cardoso Not Counting on Constitutional Reform for Fiscal Reform

PY2210192693 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Oct 93 Economy and Business Section p 1

[Article by Ribamar Oliveira]

[Excerpt] Brasilia—Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso has quit counting on the constitutional reform to define the fiscal reform he plans to implement in 1994. In a long meeting on the night of 19 October with Roberto Freire (People's Socialist Party-Pernambuco State), government coordinator in the Chamber of Deputies, Cardoso evaluated the political consequences of the Budget Congressional Investigating Committee. According to Freire, he concluded that there

will be no time to implement the changes resulting from the constitutional reform before 31 December.

In Freire's opinion, not even the alternative of including in the constitutional reform an internal rule being prepared by Deputy Ibsen Pinheiro (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rio Grande do Sul State) with expeditious implementation mechanisms will change this reality, although these mechanisms would allow for enforcing the changes to the Constitution as soon as they are approved. Freire said: "The changes' immediate implementation does not avoid the current political crisis in Congress." [passage omitted]

CPI President Says Probe Indicates Congress' 'Fragility'

PY2210194193 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Oct 93 p A5

[Excerpt] Brasilia—At the opening session of the Budget Congressional Investigating Committee [CPI] yesterday, Senator Jarbas Passarinho warned: "We will not be judging the destiny of individuals, but the destiny of Brazilian democracy." Passarinho, who is the CPI president, said the Legislative Branch is debilitated. "When we reach a stage in which a criminal is able to bring an investigation upon us, it means that Congress is fragile," he said.

This congressional fragility was made evident by the large number of congressmen not attending the opening session, including Senate President Humberto Lucena and other congressmen involved in the corruption scheme reported by economist Jose Carlos Alves dos Santos, former Senate adviser and former Federal Budget Department director. As a result, Chamber of Deputies President Inocencio de Oliveira (Liberal Front Party-Pernambuco State) had to preside over the inaugural session. [passage omitted]

Military Will Not Intervene in 'Essentially Political' Affair

PY2210234593 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Report by Renata Verissimo from Brasilia]

[Text] The military ministers have stated that they will not intervene in the investigations of corruption charges in the budget. The Army and aeronautics ministers said the crisis is essentially political and must be solved within the national Congress.

President Itamar Franco today participated in a ceremony marking pilot's day at the Brasilia air base. Approximately 156 officials were awarded the Aeronautics Order of Merit, including several ministers, congressmen, and the governors of Ceara and Amazonas.

After the ceremony, the military officers made a point of calming down the people concerning a possible Armed Forces' intervention in Congress. According to Army Minister Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena, corruption charges must be investigated and those responsible must be punished. However, a military intervention should never happen, he said, adding:

[Begin recording] Politicians must solve political problems. We resolve our own problems. [end recording]

Aeronautics Minister Lelio Viana Lobo said he has confidence in the national Congress, which will know how to overcome the difficulties. He said that concerning his ministry, there will be no intervention whatsoever, and added that for a long time the military has not intervened in political matters:

[Begin recording] I believe the country has institutions, laws, and the means, and it has capable men to overcome all these difficulties. [end recording]

Ceara Governor Ciro Gomes, who was one of those decorated, said the climate of hysteria created by corruption charges must be avoided because it is not the political career of one person or the other that is at stake, but Brazilian democracy.

Franco Orders Economic Team To Balance Budget

PY2210144193 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] During a meeting with Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso and members of his economic team, President Itamar Franco reaffirmed the absolute need for a fiscal reform to balance public accounts and to adjust next year's budget. He also told those present that measures should be taken to balance the budget in November and December. Luiz Augusto Mendonca now reports:

[Begin recording] President Itamar Franco met with cabinet ministers and the economic team for four and a half hours. The Presidency of the Republic later issued an official communique stating that Franco approved the general guidelines of the privatization program and authorized the finance minister to take the necessary measures to balance the budget in 1994 by halting government spending and introducing the necessary cuts in this year's budget with a view to balancing accounts in November and December. The communique adds that the president reaffirmed that the government gives top priority to reforming the fiscal system and combating inflation. The communique ends by stating that, having assessed the current political situation, Franco and the ministers present at the meeting said that they were certain that Congress—on behalf of the people's sovereignty—will resolve the current crisis by confronting that branch of government with the full weight of the Constitution. [end recording]

Commenting on his meeting with Franco, Cardoso assured that the government's scheme to increase its

revenues will not entail new taxes for the middle class, workers, or productive sectors.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Cristina Indio do Brasil] Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso asserted that no new taxes will be levied on workers, the middle class, or productive sectors. He stated that adjustments will be introduced to improve efficiency in tax collection in financial sectors. He denied that the rate of income tax paid in advance would be increased to 35 percent. Cardoso reiterated that the government will come down heavily on tax evasion. He announced that the government will submit to Congress a fiscal program to be implemented as of 1994, although he declined to comment on its content.

[Cardoso] We will improve tax collection this year by combating tax evasion. Several measures will be implemented to that effect. These measures, coupled with the president's decision that the planning minister and I devise the necessary budget measures, will help us begin the new year with a zero deficit.

[Cristina Indio do Brasil] The finance minister added that President Franco instructed the economic team to balance next year's budget, the deficit of which is estimated at $25 billion. This will be accomplished through a fiscal reform to be negotiated with Congress. [end recording]

Budget To Be 'Completely Redone'

PY2310130793 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The 1994 national budget will be completely redone to eliminate any irregularities. This decision was announced by Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso. Deputy Marcelo Barbieri, sponsor of the Congress Budget Committee, also guaranteed that the whole budget will be redone.

Approval of Fiscal Reform Postponed for Lack of Consensus

PY2310154993 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 Oct 93 p 23

[Excerpt] Brasilia—The fiscal reform submitted yesterday by Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso and his team to reduce next year's budget deficit from $25 billion to $10 billion has been postponed. The government will first have to conclude the constitutional revision proposal and consolidate its political clout in Congress before negotiating issues pertaining to budget cuts and more taxes for 1994.

It was not possible to approve the fiscal reform package yesterday due to the political strife within the government. President Itamar Franco told Cardoso to discuss his proposals with his counterparts from the other ministries and government leaders in Congress in order to first reach a consensus. And yet, this consensus is far from becoming a reality. The government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, Roberto Freire (PPS- PE) [People's Socialist Party-Pernambuco State], and Industry, Commerce, and Tourism Minister Jose Eduardo Andrade Vieira have opposed the proposal to raise taxes and slash the budget. PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] leader in the Chamber of Deputies, Jose Serra (SP) [Espirito Santo State], believes that the proposed 35 percent rate for income tax will be a tough nut to crack in Congress. [passage omitted]

Franco Demands Explanation From Justice Minister

PY2310190393 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Oct 93 p A4

[Excerpt] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco no sooner arrived at Planalto Palace this morning than he telephoned Justice Minister Mauricio Correa to demand an explanation of the news published by O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO on 21 October, which contends that the minister already knew about the irregularities committed in the Budget Committee because he had received a Federal Police [PF] report to that effect in March. After this telephone call, Franco was visibly impatient and even commented that the minister was very "impulsive" and was getting into a spot trying to give him an explanation.

This is why Franco asked Correa to submit the explanations of the new allegations in which he is reportedly implicated in writing. Franco complained about being involved in another delicate situation on account of the justice minister. The version being circulated at Planalto Palace is that Correa was notified about the PF report on the Budget Committee irregularities. [passage omitted]

Report Warned Government of Corruption Network in March

PY2210210893 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Oct 93 p A11

[Article by Coeli Mendes]

[Excerpt] Brasilia—A confidential report based on investigations of the activities of economist Jose Carlos Alves dos Santos prepared by the Federal Police [PF] seven months ago warned the government of the irregular procedures committed in the Congress Budget Committee. The five-page document carrying a "confidential" seal was prepared by agent Eder Douglas Santana Macedo, from the Information Service (SI). The document was sent to Justice Minister Mauricio Correa on 31 March with the signature of police officer Jose Geraldo Chaves, who was PF central police coordinator at the time.

The document warned the minister of irregular procedures within the Congress Budget Committee. Jose Carlos allegedly is responsible for 600 amendments to the federal budget bill. Nearly 40 amendments benefited

Senator Mauro Benevides (PMDB-CE) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Ceara]. The report also indicates a connection between Jose Carlos and the fraud scheme established by Paulo Cesar [PC] Farias during the Collor administration. Jose Carlos "was interested in installing computer programs in several ministries connected with the PC Farias scheme already existing in the ministries," the PF document states. [passage omitted]

Colombia

'Terrorist' Attacks Target 3 Business Establishments

PA2310172993 Paris AFP in Spanish 1620 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 23 Oct (AFP)— Three business establishments belonging to a chain of stores in Santa Fe de Bogota were the target of terrorist attacks with incendiary bombs, which caused property damage estimated at several million pesos but yielded no victims the night of 22 October, the police reported today. The attacks, the origin and perpetrators of which are unknown, were targeted against three establishments of the "Supertiendas Olimpica" chain, located in various parts of the city.

The wave of terrorist attacks began after 2130 local, (0230 GMT on Saturday), when the stores had already closed their doors to the public.

The bombs were hidden in the merchandise and were activated by remote control, according to firemen who arrived to control the fire caused by the explosions. The bomb attacks caused alarm among residents in those areas of the city and caused the police to mobilize to prevent similar attacks against other business establishments.

Meanwhile, during today's early hours, at the Caribbean beach resort of Cartagena the police defused a bomb made with 3 kg of dynamite left by unidentified individuals intent on blowing up one of the relay towers of "Olimpica Estereo," a radio station in that city belonging to the same company as the stores. The owners of the chain have remained silent.

Said Directed At Prominent Family

PA2310200693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Oct 93

[From the "NTC News" newscast]

[Text] There are 11 hours left before the census begins and the movement restrictions go into effect. The bomb attacks have nothing to do with census day, as they were directed against Char family property, supermarkets, and the transmitter facility of one of their radio stations.

The Olimpica supermarket and pharmacy chain, which belongs to the Char family, from Barranquilla, was the target of three terrorist attacks last night in Bogota. The first bomb exploded at the Olimpica Supermarket located at the Narino Residential Center. A fire broke out, and fire fighters managed to control it an hour later; a second bomb detonated outside the Olimpica Supermarket in Chapinero, breaking the windows of nearby buildings. Administrative Department of Security bomb squads defused a device containing one pound of dynamite just a few blocks away; a third explosion occurred at another supermarket in the northern section of the city. A fire broke out and was put out shortly after.

This morning the police defused an explosive device set at Radio Olimpica's transmitter and antenna site in Cartagena. Damage is estimated at more than 1 billion pesos, and the police have no clues to the reason for the attacks.

A spokesperson for the Char family spoke with NTC News. The Char family says it has no clue as to the motivate for the attacks against some of their properties in Bogota. The Barranquilla police have deployed units to protect the Char family and the 13 Olimpica Supermarkets in Barranquilla.

[Begin Colonel Felix Gallardo, Barranquilla police chief, recording] This is to protect the property with uniformed policemen, F-2 [not further identified] plainclothes agents, and other intelligence measures. [end recording]

The police recently foiled a kidnapping attempt against Antonio Char, president of the Junior Chamber of Colombia and one of Senator Fuar Char's children.

Government, CRS Guerrillas Agree To Resume Peace Talks

PA2410021593 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0016 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Report on agreement between the Colombian Government and the CRS guerrilla movement to resume peace talks, including a "summary" of the four-point agreement issued in Flor del Monte on 22 October, read by mediator Monsignor Nel Beltran; from the "Up to the Minute" Caracol newscast]

[Text] Flor del Monte, Sucre—The government of President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo today, with an agreement to reinitiate talks with the Socialist Renewal Movement [CRS]—talks that have been broken off for approximately one month—has initiated a new peace process.

This radio station has recorded satisfaction regarding the government's decision as expressed by Government Minister Fabio Villegas Ramirez, presidential peace adviser Ricardo Santamaria, mediator Monsignor Nel Beltran, and CRS spokesmen Jacinto Ruiz and Gabriel Borja. The main point of the agreement was the establishment of international supervision over the talks that will include the two parties with Church mediation.

About 700 CRS guerrillas will be covered in the talks via CRS representatives at the dialogue. The talks will cover the terms under which CRS members will surrender their weapons, rejoin civilian life, and become a political

movement, as happened in 1992 when the Executive Branch signed in Sucre an agreement with the Revolutionary Workers Party. Before this, the 19 April Movement, the People's Liberation Army, and the Quintin Lame Movement had all put down their weapons and rejoined civilian life.

The peace dialogue between the government and the Guerrilla Coordinating Board remains indefinitely suspended since 1991 following talks in Caracas and Tlaxcala. Those talks failed after the government concluded the guerrillas were attacking towns and blackmailing and killing people.

The bishop of Sincelejo, Msgr. Nel Beltran, has a summary of the agreement between the government and the CRS.

[Begin Beltran recording] This reinitiation of the peace talks is taking place based on the following points:

1. To clarify the events that occurred in Blanquiced and to ensure that the people know the truth about what happened there, the government minister, the Office of the Adviser for Peace, the CRS, and the Catholic Church, as mediator, hereby ask the nation's attorney general to expedite the investigation into the deaths of Enrique Buendia and Ricardo Gonzalez and to promptly present the results of the investigation to benefit this peace process. The requesters invite the Attorney General's Office and the Ombudsman's Office to visit Flor del Monte and ask, in particular, that the ombudsman be present during the exhumation of the bodies and follow up in the procedures having to do with the investigations.

2. For each issue on the agenda, and based on prior agreements, the negotiating table will be open to prominent organizations or individuals capable of significantly contributing to the work of the negotiators.

3. The national government and CRS reiterate their invitation to the church to exercise moral guidance over the process and to serve as witnesses to the negotiations and the agreements reached. To verify compliance with the final agreements, the national government and CRS will create a supervisory commission [comision de veeduria] that will include, in addition to the government and the CRS, international organizations.

The negotiating table also will be open to one of these organizations to observe the signing of the initial political agreement and the discussion of the verification mechanisms.

4. The negotiators will meet within the next few days to agree upon conditions suitable for transporting CRS negotiators from Uraba to Flor del Monte.

[Issued] Flor del Monte, 22 October 1993

[Signed] On behalf of the government: Government Minister Fabio Villegas and peace adviser Ricardo Santamaria Salamanca

On Behalf of the CRS: Gabriel Borja and Jacinto Ruiz

On Behalf of the mediators: Msgr. Nel Beltran. [end recording]

Eight Bomb Explosions Kill 1, Cause Minor Property Damage

PA2410135293 Paris AFP in Spanish 1306 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, Oct 24 (AFP)—The explosions of eight bombs in Bogota killed one person and caused minor property damage, as the curfew ordered to take the new national census got underway, police have announced. The victim was an unidentified homeless person who slept in a downtown street. Bomb squads defused three other explosive devices.

The bombs, which went off within a 15-minute period, caused moderate [as received] damage and claimed no other victims, because at that time, 0030 (0530), people were in their homes. The bombs were placed near state and private offices and in a downtown park.

The police presume that guerrilla urban militias may be behind the attacks, although no group has claimed responsibility. Six suspects were arrested.

Police Confirm Explosion

PA2410143693 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Oct 93

[From the "Radio Events RCN" newscast]

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—The police have confirmed that 10 bombs of the type called potatoes [papas] exploded last night in various areas of Santa Fe de Bogota but caused no victims and only minor damage.

Major Douglas Pinzon, of Police Control Station 100, said an emergency operation was immediately initiated, and exits were blocked to facilitate capture of the perpetrators.

President Gaviria Holds News Conference

PA2410231293 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Oct 93

[News conference by Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, hosted by an unidentified moderator, with foreign and domestic reporters at the Narino Presidential Palace in Santa Fe de Bogota; broadcast in progress from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live relay]

[Text] [Gaviria] ...to contribute so this topic stops being the exclusive patrimony of a handful of specialists. Today I want to begin by saying that this government reiterates its commitment to the spirit and the letter of the 1991 Constitution. We cannot forget that one of the main reasons for drafting a new Constitution was the

need to completely eliminate obscure and corrupt practices that were destroying our democracy. These included mainly the so- called congressional appropriations [auxilios parlamentarios], which allowed the payment of public funds to private entities. Instead of fulfilling public needs, this instead met political and electoral commitments and thus contributed to corruption and the granting of privileges.

In my inaugural speech, I proposed the outright elimination of congressional appropriations, and I also said that persisting in a process of technical, closed, and antidemocratic budget planning prevents areas and social sectors from supporting these decisions and instead makes them feel abandoned and discriminated against. I also said that discussion of public policies, decisions on government spending and amounts is the task of Congress in any democracy.

Congressional appropriations are expressly forbidden in the new Constitution, under Article 355, due to a government protest; thus, this is not acceptable in any form. Any attempt to reinstate this practice must be severely punished in addition to the rejection by society. The 1991 Constitution did not ban the allotment of national funds as contributions to regional, departmental, or municipal projects that are implemented by respective public entities according to the law. These types of investments are clearly authorized by the law that governs the assignment of funds, which won the unanimous vote of all political sectors after a broad debate and which Congress approved during the past legislature.

The deputies' participation in drafting and discussing the budget is provided for in the Constitution and allows them to propose to the government expenditures and investments to fulfill the needs of their areas. During discussion of the draft budget law, the Finance and Public Credit Ministry received a request from the third and fourth chambers and senate commissions to include allotments amounting to 300 billion pesos aimed at regional investments for education, health, housing, potable water, drainage, electricity, sports, and recreational installations. After this request was studied, the Finance and Public Credit Ministry agreed to include 100 billion pesos for this, which was included in overall programs and subprograms.

Territorial investment plans can be included in the nation's budget via proposals from congressmen, governors, mayors, and legitimate regional representatives. Projects must follow strict procedures in order to be approved and implemented. These procedures include, among other things, the registration of the projects with the National Projects Bank under the National Planning Department. This is an information system that permits, based on technical and economic parameters, the evaluation of investment projects to determine their feasibility. In most cases, governors and mayors must contribute complementary departmental and municipal funds when implementing each one of the initiatives through postfinancing programs. Most of these projects will be implemented through institutions, such as [name indistinct]; the National Urban Reform Institute, Inurbe; the Integrated Rural Development Program, DRI; and the Social Investment Fund, or directly through ministries to finance other municipal or departmental institutions.

In turn, anyone who thinks or says that the inclusion of funds in the national budget is a license for pirates to manage public funds without any control is absolutely wrong. Anyone who thinks or says appropriations banned by the 1991 Constitution have been revived has no basis for saying this. Despite this, the president of the Republic will closely examine and analyze legal arguments received from citizens with regard to the budget's approval. After reviewing legal concerns and recommendations in the sense that the bill should be rejected, the Colombian president must state that he would prefer to sanction the Budget Law approved by Congress in terms of the source of public spending. Nevertheless, in response to legitimate concerns about possible electoral effects of territorial investment funds, the national government has decided to temporarily suspend those budget allotments immediately after the law is sanctioned until after the congressional and presidential elections are held next year.

Meanwhile, the government hopes possible suits filed with the Constitutionality Court will definitely resolve all legal controversies on the subject. This administration advocates change and the necessary purification of Colombian political habits, and it is proud to declare to the nation that with the approval of the draft Budget Law it has not revived the appropriations banned by the Constitution. The president of the Republic will not permit any attempt to revive this obnoxious practice and will defend, as part of its duties, the correct implementation of the Constitution and other laws to guarantee to Colombians a clean budget system that will benefit all of the people and will prevent corruption. Thank you. I am ready to answer questions from reporters.

[Moderator] The first question [words indistinct].

[Unidentified reporter] Good morning, Mr. president. You announced you will temporarily suspend budget allotments once the law is ratified. Does this minimize the threat from the treasury overseer, who has said he will order the freezing of those allotments immediately after the law is sanctioned?

[Gaviria] Well, I believe this will be unnecessary, because first of all, the government will suspend those budget allotments once the law is ratified. It is in the government's interest to clear doubts expressed by various sectors in order that those budget allotments will not affect the current congressional or presidential elections. Meanwhile, I am certain that because complaints will very likely be filed before the Constitutionality Court, that court will have the opportunity to state its position in terms of the constitutionality or illegality of those budget allotments. The public can be sure that

before a single peso leaves the treasury, the Constitutionality Court will give its opinion, and the government will accept the Constitutional Court's ruling.

This, as I said in my speech, will occur with the understanding that the president has made a public commitment to study the legal arguments presented against the budget and against the allocations as soon as the bill arrives at the Presidency, and as soon as the Legal Department examines it. If the president comes to the conclusion that the citizens are right, he will act accordingly. Nevertheless, I find the legal arguments we have already heard from the Treasury Ministry to be correct and sufficient for the ministry and the Congress to reach their respective decisions.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] cannot object to that. I do object to the way the finance minister proceeded. He allegedly seduced congressmen into allocating other funds, in addition to the 100 billion pesos, which would be managed by the Presidency, let us say. This would suggest a budget administration system that could create some conflict with objectives of the Constitution. What can we do under such circumstances, Mr. President?

[Gaviria] It is very difficult to respond to rumors or to statements the treasury minister has repeatedly denied making to members of the Congress or the Chamber or Representative. I would like to clearly state that it is very difficult to ask congressmen, who represent certain departments and, in some cases, regions within departments, not to present any requests for budget appropriations for their regions.

In turn, we Colombians must not expect senators or representatives to forgo any say in drafting the national budget. Article 351 of the Constitution and the new resource authority laws clearly state that the parliament can include certain appropriations within the budget, with the approval of the treasury minister. We all know that the congressmen from Antioquia, Valle, Atlantico, Narino, or the territories are judged on their ability to obtain funds for their regions. We cannot say that this violates the Constitution or that it is immoral. On the other hand, can anyone really believe that this will not present some sort of problem? The debate, however, cannot go on the way it has up until now.

The members of Congress have this right, and this does not happen only in Colombia. It occurs in every democracy in the world. There is not a single country in the world—and I invite you to think about this—where the members or parliament or congress have no say in the nation's budget. This, of course, must be done within the law, and the Constitutionality Court must decide on any demands or claims that may be filed.

As president, I find the procedure that allows members of Congress to request appropriations to resolve problems in their communities to be correct. This is why, at this morning's briefing, I quoted my inauguration speech when I said I supported the elimination of congressional appropriations, while supporting greater congressional participation in the budget discussion process and the allowing of members of Congress to propose specific allotments. Of course, this should be with the approval of the government to prevent any serious imbalance of income, which by nature affects expenditures, in order for this to be an orderly public investment process.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] your government. He has said the finance minister and his government have violated the Constitution and the law in processing the approval of the controversial appropriation. Mr. President, does this have a political consequence for the government coalition you maintain with the [words indistinct] group?

[Gaviria] You will have to address that question to Senator Pastrana. I simply suggest that you read Article 355 of the Constitution, which clearly establishes subsidies or donations to individuals or corporations. I want to ask those who insist that this article is being violated to name one single budget appropriation with characteristics such as these. Let us turn things around for a moment. [words indistinct] budget appropriation that violates that article of the Constitution.

The Constitution prohibits the allocation of budget appropriations to private entities and foundations with electoral or political purposes. This is what the Constitution prohibits. The Constitution has never prohibited parliamentarians from making proposals for their regions. All political sectors represented in Congress participated in drafting the Constitution. They deliberately [words indistinct] that is what they did. They could have banned parliamentarians from proposing budget appropriations, but they did not.

Therefore, they cannot now claim that the Constitution says things it does not. [words indistinct] where are the budget appropriations earmarked for private entities in the national budget? Will there be any? Yes, those that the Constitution itself allows, enabling specific hospitals [words indistinct] academies and rest homes to continue operating, as well as meritorious institutions and nongovernment institutions.

The last thing that happened with the constitutional debate is that during the previous discussion, some people said that the Constitution prohibited all kinds of relations between the state and individuals. We have gone to the extreme of endangering the operation of some hospital foundations. As you know, there are several academies, rest homes, and a series of public institutions on the verge of closing because some stubborn Colombians say this is what the Constitution says. This is not true. This is not a valid interpretation of the Constitution.

Constituent Assembly members did not say we had to shut down all rest homes in Colombia and a long line of hospitals and educational institutions. This was never the intent of the members of the Constituent Assembly. The Constitution cannot only be interpreted and used

for electoral purposes. This is not the aim of the Constitution. It did not try to end all cooperation with private entities and nongovernment organization, or to prevent the needs of regions, municipalities, and department from being included in the national budget contingent resources for their financing. This is important, because cofinancing budget appropriations are needed.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] this kind of budget distribution. What is still not clear to all parliamentary sectors and public opinion is that the largest budget appropriations in which the advocates of the project agreed [words indistinct] finance minister, have been earmarked for the departments from which they come, thereby excluding needy departments, such as Choco and Putumayo?

[Gaviria] Listen, I am not aware of those details, and I have no reason to be aware of them. I think Congress is forced to seek a balance when making such decisions. I think that lawmakers cannot be criticized for trying to obtain larger budget appropriations for their regions. I think it is normal that these concerns crop up in congressional debates—debates which take place in all countries of the world. The discussion of budgets in every country centers on how much will the education, health, or housing sectors receive, or how much will particular regions receive. This is what budget debates are all about. They are discussions that must be active, which unfortunately Colombians have been unable to obtain.

These concerns may obviously cropped up. I could eventually say that there may be fears, but one thing is clear: First, these resources have not yet been appropriated. The projects are just going to be presented. No region can argue that it has been excluded from or discriminated against within the budget. If we eventually approve the budget, if we do not have juridical obstacles, the government's obligation is to make sure that these resources are distributed in an equitable manner among the regions.

[Moderator] Hipolito Hincapie from EL NUEVO SIGLO, and then Alonso Bello.

[Hincapie] Mr. President, first of all please allow me to sincerely congratulate you for the announcements you recently made to the Colombian people. There is a question I would like to ask you, as well as Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes. What type of budget proposal will be sent to your office for approval due to there being three final and dissimilar documents already approved in the second debate? One is in a light blue folder, which includes the distribution of each allotment in accordance to the recommendations made by those who proposed the budget. We have also Gazette No. 351, over which the House of Representatives has not yet made a pronouncement. In addition, we have Gazette No. 360, which was presented by the House of Representatives to be discussed during the second debate on [words indistinct]; moreover, Mr. President, the finance minister himself [words indistinct] because this document, which was approved by the House of representatives, reads that the budget totals 14.861 trillion pesos. During its second debate the senate worked around 14.948 trillion pesos. This is where my concern lies.

[Gaviria] I would like to point out the following. The president is not making a pronouncement with respect to every problem that arises during the budget law proceedings; that is something we will only know when the file reaches the hands of the president of the Republic, more specifically to the hands of the Juridical Secretariat [secretaria juridica]. If we were to find irregularities in the proceedings, if we were to find inconsistencies, if we were to find valid charges by citizens, we would be obligated to veto the budget. I would be forced to do it. I would have to return the budget to Congress in order for them to amend whatever irregularities may have occurred during the proceeding, as allowed by the Constitution. At this point I do not know if I am going to find the problems you are suggesting; nevertheless, rest assured that we are obligated to analyze every concern, as well as the entire budget file once it reaches the Juridical Secretarial and before the president can sanction it.

[Moderator] Alonso Bello from EL EXPECTADOR, and we will then continue with Ignacio Santiago.

[Bello] Mr. President, referring to that issue, a great national debate has risen which, with all due respect, may be futile. The House of Representatives president was telling us yesterday that 80 billion pesos were also approved in the current budget after we had decided to [words indistinct], but those revenues were accredited during the war years, to recover those funds; in other words [words indistinct] not one cent was distributed to the regions. Can the same situation take place now?

[Gaviria] I could say that obviously those risks do exist. Sometimes funds that are allocated turn out to be insufficient. Sometimes we even run into stumbling blocks at the constitutional court that may not necessarily coincide with the juridical reasonings on which we have been working. What you have brought up is a very real fact that would be unwise to disregard.

As far back as ancestral times, as far back as our independence, Congress and the congressmen have always been there to try to influence the budget and obtain funds for their respective regions. I find it very difficult to accept that there are sectors in Colombia that still believe that it may be wrong for a congressman from Antioquia or Magdalena to try, within budget law guidelines, to secure funds for his department. What is really a wrongdoing, prohibited, and outlawed by the 1991 Constitution is for a congressman to establish a foundation, to proceed to transfer funds, to give instructions for the funds to be drawn, and then to claim that the funds were lost or stolen. Some of the funds are even used for political campaigns instead of for solving the region's problems. That is what the 1991 Constitution barred.

The other issue is a procedure that is included in the Constitution, which, of course.... [pauses] Adjustments

can even be made; why? Because within this framework, it is still possible to evaluate how these procedures will be managed the day there is a development plan. There are still some very complex issues to be solved, such as how those problems will be solved the day there is a development program.

[Moderator] Ignacio Santiago, and we will continue [words indistinct] Ruben Parra.

[Santiago] Mr. President, good morning. Now that you have mentioned the development plan, one of the criticisms the national treasury overseer made—not only with respect to this budget proposal but also with respect to the previous budget—is that a development program has been overlooked. The overseer is asking why the government has not given much importance to the development plan. That is a big question.

[Gaviria] I will answer your question. The 1991 Constitution stipulates that the development plan must be studied during the presidential term's first months and that the development plan must be outlined according to the organic planning law. Because we were not in the first months of the administration when the 1991 Constitution was enacted and did not have an organic law, it was physically impossible for the government to present a plan to Congress. Who would have dealt with it, according to which law, and in which first eight months?

The Constitutional Court considered all of these views, clearly stating in a decision regarding the Budget Law that the budget is null and void as long as the Constitution is not obeyed. This is a juridical argument [words indistinct] by the Constitutional Court. [Words indistinct] if the Constitutional Court had made a decision as the overseer wanted, we would have been unable to implement the budget. We have been able to do it, because the Constitutional Court has made it possible.

I expect Congress, in this legislature, to enact the organic planning law; if Congress fails to do so, the next government will experience great difficulties in dealing with this type of problem. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate to Congress the need to enact the organic planning law, which will enable the next government to approve the plan during the first five months of the administration and fully fulfill the Constitution.

[Moderator] William Parra of the CMI Newscast; now, Ricardo Canon.

[Canon] Mr. President, can you permit me to change the subject?

[Gaviria] We will stick to this subject.

[Canon] You said you would rather sign the budget after listening to the juridical objections. Does this mean that you are still unsure as to whether the budget proposal will be signed into law in the same form it had when it emerged from Congress? Is it possible to make sure the candidates will not make exaggerated pledges during the electoral campaign with the 100 billion pesos [words indistinct]?

[Gaviria] There is a complex issue that I have not explained in my participation. The first thing I would like to point out is that I did not say I have already decided to sign the proposal into law and that, offhand, I will study any juridical objections of the people against the budget's approval. I must study the objections. I cannot not say I would sign the proposal into law regardless. Also, the remarks by an EL SIGLO newspaper journalist on procedural problems could prove true; this is why I must decide which objections militate against the approval of the budget only after I have studied the juridical objections. The Presidency's legal office has studied the procedures, and the legal issues are clear.

I disapprove of the objections of which I know and which I have received so far; for instance, the parliamentarians' proposing allocations. I would not object to the budget due to these things. I would sign it. If other objections come up that I could justify, I would consider them. The ones of which I know at present—namely, Congress influencing the budget—I regard as insufficient.

If I object to the budget, apparently it would go back to Congress, although there are still lawyers who interpret the organic statute. It is not completely clear whether we would enter a stage of fiscal dictatorship. We have been able to avoid a fiscal dictatorship. We think it is not good; we think it is not a good situation to hold elections in the framework of a fiscal dictatorship.

I would rather work with a Congress-approved budget or one drafted by the government. We cannot let ourselves be put into such a situation. An official of the national planning office or the Finance Ministry can influence the country's budget even more than parliamentarians. We must live with an entirely technocratic budget design.

[Words indistinct] the process of drafting a budget must be a technical and ordered one. Regional remarks are picked up throughout the process. The budget debate must be public and open, however. It is immoral to say the regions' needs cannot be considered in the budget. I respect those who say this cannot be done, but I cannot share it. I cannot approve a perverse mechanism that harms our democracy.

Some of you come from the departments and know that the department congressmen are criticized all the time, because they cannot get more funds for their departments. If there is a mechanism for them to secure more funds for their departments, it is said to be unconstitutional, immoral, and illegal. No. We cannot work like this. We cannot create mechanisms that work by virtually destroying democracy. Creating mechanisms that discredit Congress, regardless, and allowing the congressmen to proceed in this manner harms our democracy.

[Moderator] Ricardo Canon of the "Noon Newscast," followed by Francisco Rodriguez.

[Canon] Good morning, Mr. President. You said your government, based on the aspects that most concern it now, has decided to [word indistinct] selectively the appropriations, while the bill is enacted into law, following the elections. Isn't this really postponing the current controversy by another six months so that in six or seven months when the congressional elections are over the same topic is discussed again? Wouldn't it be preferable to suspend it indefinitely to find a balance, as our colleague here has stated, in the municipalities of the neediest regions regarding the distribution of those appropriations?

[Gaviria] Controversy is a fundamental topic, because the country's regions do not stop protesting; groups do not stop protesting, and because the chief discussion in a democracy—when there are not so many problems of violence and difficulties as the ones that exist in Colombia—is always the budget. That is a true democracy, and the chief difference [words indistinct] than anything else [words indistinct]. One cannot attempt to implement the budget while avoiding a debate or a controversy. It is that in [words indistinct] a controversy on the budget; controversy on the budget is welcome.

What we are saying is this: I think the country does not want these appropriations—even if the people regard them as totally good and legitimate—to fall prey to the electoral process. We are going to take them out of the way. We are going to take them out of the way so that they do not interfere with the elections;

In addition, I think that for the tranquility of all and the segments concerned about the constitutionality and legality of the bill, we should wait for the Constitutional Court's ruling. If the Constitutional Court rules that this cannot be done, we will not; if it rules we can, the nature of the discussion will simply change.

The discussion could be on the bill's advisability or lack of but not on the constitutionality or morality of it. It will simply be a discussion on whether the bill is advisable. That is why it is good to wait for the ruling. In addition, it has to rule someday on whether these types of things can or cannot be done. Congressmen should know by what to abide and how to handle situations in the future or how they can tell their regions that an interpretation of the Constitution that was given totally prevents us from including these appropriations in the budget.

[Moderator] Francisco Rodriguez of LA PRENSA newspaper, followed by Jaime Marin.

[Rodriguez] Good morning, Mr. President. Given the appropriation of 100 billion pesos for the regions, doubts have again surfaced concerning Narino Palace's handling of the budget [words indistinct] subsidies through global appropriations. What are the characteristics of the Presidency's budget, and what [words indistinct] on the handling of the same?

[Gaviria] The budget of the Presidency of the Republic is not administered by the president but, rather, by the secretary general of the Administrative Department of the Presidency of the Republic. This is why some people with bad intentions have said that there are global allotments administered arbitrarily by the Presidency's General Secretariat. This statement is unfounded, because what these people want to do is to conceal the reality of the programs included there. They do not dare say that we should eliminate the PNR [National Rehabilitation Plan], which is perhaps this country's main program to benefit the need.

They do not understand that more than half of the Presidency's resources are consumed by the PNR. They criticize the Presidency and the General Secretariat, but no one dares to say that we should eliminate the PNR. What politician in this country would dare to say that we should not implement the PNR?

What else is included in the Presidency's budget? The Presidential Program for Medellin. Does anyone here dare say that we should eliminate the Presidential Program for Medellin, which has helped us resolve violence problems? It also includes the Program for Uraba. Are we going to take away resources from Uraba—resources through which we are trying to eliminate violence from Uraba?

The Presidency's budget includes a series of social programs to assist women, families, and vulnerable segments of society. These programs have been included because the Constitution ordered that the Social Emergency Fund be funded under the Presidency's budget.

The same gentlemen who proposed and voted for the previously mentioned project in the Constituent Assembly should then ask themselves why has this money been allocated to the Presidency. Because it is mandated by the Constitution. They voted for it, and they proposed it. They established that these resources should be allocated to the Presidency. These resources have been handled here in a transparent and aboveboard manner. I cannot answer myself, and I do not know the specific uses... [pauses] I am only aware of a vague concern that in previous administrations, for example, it was decided to place the PNR under the Presidency in an effort to give it more importance. These resources [words indistinct] the Presidency's budget and are executed independently, as any decentralized institute does.

It is very difficult to respond to vague concerns that have been raised. People do not dare call things by their proper names, because, as I said before, no one dares say that we should kill the PNR, the Presidential Plan for Medellin, the Plan for Uraba, or the childhood programs we pledged to undertake before the United Nations, or any other programs of this nature.

[Moderator] Jaime Marin of COLPRENSA will ask the next question, and he will be followed by Jairo Gomez.

[Marin] Good morning, Mr. President. The strong attack on the finance minister in Congress and the attack against your administration by the pro-Conservative Party press is justifiable from a political standpoint. But how do you explain the conduct of the Liberal Party [PL]—conduct represented, for instance, by the behavior of Dr. Santofimio and other PL representatives who went as far as saying the government committed crimes in dealing with budget matters? Where is party discipline, and what is the position of the party's top leader, who did not call on PL parliamentarians to work with your government on the budget?

[Gaviria] I understand and have always understood the policy that within the PL, of which the president of the Republic is a member, there should exist and, in fact, has existed throughout my administration, a little discipline and willingness to approve the government's initiatives in Congress. This has led to a notable modernization of this country. Nevertheless, within the PL there has always been something called free [word indistinct] and the discussion of these issues fall under this. This is a polemic issue, and it has always been like this in Colombia.

The main argument of the 1968 reform was the discussion of the so-called subsidies, which were finally included and later eliminated in the 1991 Constitution. This is one of the oldest arguments in Colombian life. No one can eliminate it, and on this issue, PL members and Conservative Party members can think the way they want.

I must recognize that given the abuses committed in the past with the parlamentarian subsidies prohibited by the 1991 Constitution, it is natural that precautionary measures be taken to avoid that these subsidies be reinstated. Unfortunately, Congress must admit that in the past many abuses were committed in the handling of foundations, the remittance of resources to foundations, funds which were stolen, and so on. Nevertheless, the fact that this happened in the past, as well as the fact that fears still exist, should not force us to conclude that the only way to resolve problems is to deny congressmen any say in the budget.

In Colombia, we have budget entries that [words indistinct] are comprehensive, and we are functioning with these comprehensive entries. Therefore, what we are going to suspend are comprehensive entries, because there are no specific entries in the budget. What we are going to do is assign these entries to the same national institutions or have them financed by municipalities and departments which will have full control over government funds. I hope the abuses of the past will not be repeated now. Nevertheless, given the abuses of the past, I can understand those people who fear that such phenomena might recur. I understand this, and it does not bother me whatsoever that this discussion has emerged or that within my party and other parties there is resistance because of past abuses.

Now, when the members of the 1991 Constituent Assembly sat down with members of the government to discuss ways to resolve this problem, they said: No, what we must prohibit is the funding of private foundations. We cannot prevent congressmen from participating in the budget debate. They said that we must avoid putting government funds in private hands without establishing any controls, but they did not say it is prohibited to allot funds to a municipality, department, or hospital. They never said this, and I do not believe they could have said such a thing. What we have done is adhere to the spirit of the Constitution.

[Moderator] [words indistinct] time for a few more questions?

[Gaviria] Yes.

[Gomez] Good morning, Mr. President. The previous question was about the party's backbone in Congress. I want to talk about the pledges that other political movements have signed with your government—the social pact, for example. The New Democratic Force [NFD] has defended the social pact with the national government. Nevertheless, in Congress the NFD has adopted a very critical attitude toward the government regarding the budget. It has even gone as far as to tell Mr. Andres Pastrana, who is going to be the next president, that he should not use his elbow to erase all that he has written with his hand. Second, Mr. President, if the 100 billion peso entry is as clear as you said during your very elaborate and clear explanations, why must we wait for a decision by the Constitutional Court instead of approving it at once?

[Gaviria] No, we do not want to approve them... [pauses] regarding the first of your two questions—I do not believe anyone else has asked two questions—I must say yes, there is a social pact, as well as a number of draft bills that have been more or less duly processed in Congress, which, for the government, has been quite satisfying. Nevertheless, the pact is not a form of discipline. It does not prevent people from expressing their views or disagreeing with or criticizing the government's policies, and the president understands this.

How can I expect politicians from my party or other parties to totally agree with the government's policies? I cannot. We want the Constitutional Court to hand down a decision, because the government and the Finance Ministry have worked without a legal decision, which seems insufficient to me. On the other hand, [words indistinct] the best way to settle the controversy and concerns that have emerged is for the Constitutional Court to hand down a decision. If the Constitutional Court says this can be done, the legal controversy will end. It would be a serious matter, however, if the budget entries were executed and the court were to eventually decide that this was the wrong course of action. This would hurt our democracy. Therefore, I find it rather

convenient that, although the government feels confident of its legal arguments in support of its budget entries, the Constitutional Court must still hand down a decision and [words indistinct] the Constitutional Court.

[Moderator] Jacqueline Guevara of EL TIEMPO, and a final question from Cesar Mauricio Velasquez.

[Guevara] Mr. President, starting with the advancing of certain 1994 [words indistinct] for execution in the final months of 1993, has the government designed a strategy to avoid turning over an overheated economy to the next government [words indistinct] unable to meet certain goals?

[Gaviria] We are relatively committed to a fiscal deficit of 1.5 percent. Quite frankly, [word indistinct] 1.5 percent. I believe this deficit and [words indistinct] the board of the Bank of the Republic is compatible with the government's macroeconomic program with the support of the Bank of the Republic. We have made certain decisions, and throughout the coming year we will be very vigilant to ensure that the budget's execution is compatible with the fiscal deficit. We will be increasingly vigilant because we are going to leave the next administration in a healthy fiscal position.

This government has made every effort, and during a tremendously difficult period such as 1992, we executed a tax reform to make it possible to keep our public finances in order [words indistinct] public finances.

[Moderator] Cesar Mauricio Velazquez from [name indistinct] newscast.

[Velazquez] Good morning, Mr. President. Colombians are really [word indistinct] that this is not a matter of congressional appropriations but, rather, a matter of how to explain [words indistinct] to the followers of Dr. Andres Pastrana who are in your government. In the words of a letter addressed to you: Please consider the revival of the so-called congressional appropriations not just unadvisable but, instead, at odds with the supreme law and moral conscience of the nation.

[Gaviria] I would like to clearly state that Dr. Pastrana is fully entitled to consider it unadvisable, and so are all the other segments of Colombian society that may regard it that way. This is the nature of politics [passage indistinct] I have responded as I am doing this morning. Not a single allotment of the budget can fall under the category banned by Article 355 of the Constitution. [words indistinct] a single allotment earmarked for a foundation, which has a contract with the state under all the characteristics outlined by the Constitution. Therefore, Dr. Pastrana and all the other politicians in this country can rest assured that there is no danger of reviving all the appropriations banned by the 1991 Constitution. Dr. Pastrana [words indistinct] will be sent to jail. I do not think this will happen. I condemn this in the strongest of terms. You can rest assured this will not happen.

If political leaders are trying to say that we are calling appropriations by another name, yes, we are, but not the kind of appropriations banned by the 1991 Constitution. If they want to call it an appropriation, the lawmakers should make proposals [words indistinct] in our opinion that is not banned. The Constitutional Court will soon rule on this issue. Thank you, all of you.

Gaviria on Appropriations, Drug Traffickers

PA2210181993 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1253 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Interview with Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo by Dario Arizmendi, director of Radio Emisora Caracol's "0600-0900" newscast, journalist Carlos Ruiz, and undentified reporter; at the Narino Presidential Palace in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] Mr. President, thank you for meeting with Caracol Network. Following this news conference in which you have announced your stand and that of your government with regard to the budget law and the controversial issue of appropriations for the regions, we would like for you to specify the following. According to the constitution, you have a 20-day deadline to make any constitutional objections or voice any disadvantages to the law approved by the Congress of the Republic. Will you take that time, or are you going to accelerate the juridical study to determine whether this law and the funds are advisable according to the Constitution, as some groups are claiming?

[Gaviria] Well, I have to wait for the dossier of the law to reach the Juridical Secretariat at the Presidential Palace. There we will bear in mind and examine all the formal parts of the plan. We will have to make sure there was in fact a majority, that the agreements were reached during the sessions, that [words indistinct] were included in the Constitution. The public may rest assured that we will consider all of the legal objections raised by political leaders or common citizens to the budget law, and that only after all of the arguments have been analyzed, the president will see if the juridical provisions used are appropriate, which is how I feel now. In that case, the president will approve the law if he is convinced that it is reasonable. Otherwise, he will have to make a decision on presenting some objections to the budget.

[Arizmendi] Mr. President, when the government says approximately 100 billion pesos have not been distributed or assigned, it is admitting that the initial draft budget—in which the finance minister added certain allotments for several regions—is wrong. Is this correct?

[Gaviria] Look, Dario, I just work with the information I am given. I understand that lists circulated in Congress with certain proposals, but these are not part of the national budget. The budget lists overall funds. If those proposals are incorporated later on to the budget, those proposals must be taken to the National Planning Department. If they are accepted, they must be in line with the criteria of the National Projects Bank. Only

then will the government be able to include them through a decree in the general national budget.

I understand that so far what we now have now—which is what will be sent to the Presidency of the Republic—are (?five) overall allotments for 100 billion pesos.

[Unidentified reporter] According to the announcements you have made to the effect that this overal allotment will be distributed in equal amounts by your government, a series of analyses and agreements will then follow in order to implement Articles 355, 356, 357 of the National Constitution, and thus apply these criteria for the distribution of the funds and not apply the recommendations of the politicians as to where those funds should go?

[Gaviria] No. There is actually going to be a series of proposals that will come from the congressmen, because the government—the finance minister—accepted this when the draft law was being proposed. There will be some coordination with departments and municipalities. Some (?financing) from the municipalities is expected. The projects must be accepted by the National Bank of Projects. Only then will a decision be reached on incorporating those allotments into the national budget. They will not be implemented during the electoral campaign or before the Constitutional Court makes a ruling.

[Arizmendi] Mr. President, during the discussion of the budget law, a few congressmen who are more diligent and wiser than others had succeeded in allotting some funds, at least in the first changes made to the budget.

[Gaviria] Well, that is normal. There is a long tradition of some congressmen, particularly the members of the commissions that are involved with the budget, who work diligently and try to include allotments for their regions. I think that does not really have major importance in a preliminary process with regard to what is truly basic. Any proposal they may have must be evaluated by the National Planning Department and the National Projects Bank.

We will have to wait until the Constitutional Court settles juridical concerns. Only then we will be able to define the feasibility of this plan proposed by Congress, accepted by the Finance Ministry, and that became part of the budget law.

[Arizmendi] Mr. President, your words left the impression feeling—as you defended the decisions adopted by Congress—that you are neither alarmed nor scared to see congressmen request appropriations for their regions. On the contrary, to you it appears that this is healthy, fair, and nearly an obligation.

[Gaviria] This is a function of Congress in any democracy. I share the spirit of the 1968 reform of the previous Constitution, empowering the government to disallow inclusion of budget appropriations in the national budget without its authorization. This has been an important achievement of this democracy, promoted by former President Lleras.

But I also believe that, at least with the permission of the Finance Ministry, congressmen have the right to ask for budget appropriations for their regions. This is normal and typical in every democracy. I hope that in the end, the juridical arguments will be enough—for me they are enough—for the Constitutional Court to say that these procedures are valid.

[Arizmendi] Mr. President, what guarantees can you offer Congress and Colombians that at the time of adjudicating and selecting different projects presented by congressmen, the government will act based on equitable criteria and not punish the congressmen who vehemently criticized the finance minister?

[Gaviria] No, I do not think that this will take place, because no one will claim to own a budget appropriation. This would be absurd. What would happen is that finally... [pauses] All they will be able to say is that Congress had a say in budget appropriations and that Congress, as a whole, obtained a series of appropriations for regions, health, education, potable water, and the basic needs of Colombians.

I am confident this process will be handled carefully by the National Planning Department and will be fair to all regions.

[Arizmendi] Mr. President, people wonder that if the government says the law is legal and this is why Congress approved it, why did this serious argument occur? Did the government handle the debate incorrectly? Was there lack of communication with Congress, or do you attribute such criticism to the political situation in the country?

[Gaviria] No. I would say that many people, including political leaders, believed that the 1991 Constitution not only banned resources for private foundations but also banned legislators from having a say in the budget. They are imagining the Constitution says some things it luckily does not say. I think we should allow congressmen to argue, fight, and defend their regions in Congress. This is a long-standing tradition in Colombian life. There are no restrictions on economic dialogue as to how the budget should be prepared or how far Congress should go.

There are always fears, which are sometimes valid, that these appropriations could be handled in a disorderly fashion. I think that at one point people thought Congress held disorderly budget discussions. This is why damaging rumors and different versions of this story have appeared.

All we can do now to eradicate bad impressions is to ensure that the budget appropriations inclusion process, if we do not have juridical problems, will be done in an

orderly manner, that projects will be registered with the National Planning Department; and that distribution by region is done equitably.

[Arizmendi] Mr. President, indeed people believe that the question is not that Congressmen cannot propose appropriation in the national budget, but [words indistinct] procedures to incorporate them. Unfortunately, the budget appropriations chart made public the incorporation of an appropriation for [words indistinct] in El Choco, a region that does not even have potable water. It seemed that there was no technical selection procedure for the project. What procedures will be adopted to guarantee to the public that if legislators have the chance to present projects, this will be done in a technical manner or that when the budget is approved, the country knows what projects were approved, not just an overall figure to be later negotiated by the executive and legislature on the backs of public opinion?

[Gaviria] Yes. When the government makes a decision after projects are registered at the National Projects Bank or said projects are well-founded and meet the needs of regions, the inclusion of said appropriations in the budget will have to be public and transparent, as they will have to be published. Therefore, I believe that that kind of risk does not exist and that fears will be dispelled.

I understand the inconvenience that these proposals have circulated giving the impression of [words indistinct] or no social character relations will be established. I trust such fears will be dispelled when the projects are registered with the National Planning Department.

Friends of Caracol, you must understand I now have to travel to Medellin for a series of activities, including the inauguration the passenger terminal [words indistinct] in Rio Grande, so I have to leave you.

[Arizmendi] One last question, Mr. President, if you would? We have three minutes.

[Gaviria] Very well, Dario.

[Arizmendi] What is your opinion on the letter sent recently by several lawyers of the drug cartels to the Congress of the Republic offering To surrender and discontinue processing and exporting cocaine?

[Gaviria] I would agree with the attorney general and say first we must verify the authenticity of those letters. I would also like to add that the policy for surrendering to justice is an appropriate one that has demonstrated its benefits, despite a few mishaps. I would say that the provisions therein, including confessions, plea bargains, and protection plan, are very effective. Once the authenticity has been confirmed, it will be the ministers, the prosecutor general, and the attorney general who will have to verify if there are in fact groups of Colombians involved in criminal or drug-trafficking activities who are willing to submit themselves to the justice system. In my opinion, submitting to justice means resorting to these specific decrees. I find the mechanisms in place are adequate and correct and provide broad guarantees for these groups to submit themselves to Colombian justice.

[Arizmendi] What about the turn in President Clinton's drug policy?

[Gaviria] It is too early to make a statement on that policy. Reports in today's media are very sketchy. I would not like to say anything until I have more information.

[Arizmendi] How far are you willing to go to prevent the mass release of inmates, which could happen if the Chamber of Representatives does not approve the public order law? Would this be fatal for Colombia?

[Gaviria] I am going to urge the Chamber of Representatives to do so. I will also give the draft criminal code priority status, because the norms are included in both bills. I hope Congress will approve the two bills next week. The Congress must. If they do not we will be facing a very serious legal problem and the risk of hundreds, if not thousands, of criminals pouring into the streets.

[Arizmendi] In August of this year...

[Gaviria, interrupting] Have you no mercy, Dario? [laughs]

[Arizmendi] This August, during an interview with me, you said that about a year ago you were willing to consider whatever measure was needed to prevent the exodus of criminals from the jails, in light of the current legal confusion. Would you be willing to consider any measure now, if the Congress does not approve the draft bills you are promoting and that the country needs?

[Gaviria] I am still willing, but I am quite sure the Congress of the Republic will resolve this problem during the coming week.

[Arizmendi] Mr. President, thank you for this special concession to "0600-0900" newscast on Caracol.

Gaviria Urges Citizens To Cooperate With Census

PA2510011693 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Oct 93

[From the "Up to the Minute" Caracol newscast]

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo has invited Colombians to fully support the national population and housing census that is taking place today. He is convinced the census will dispel many questions and that, through the census, it will be possible to guide the country toward modern development. This will be a significant date because in every village, town, and city, we will begin to dispel questions we have had for so many years regarding the size of the Colombian nation and our living conditions, the president said in a national address broadcast on radio and television.

He also noted that knowing the true size of the population and the people's basic needs will ultimately lead to

cooperation among all Colombians. According to Gaviria, as of today it will be possible to know for sure how many of us there are, the kind of country in which we live, what our needs are, how many of us there will be in the future, and how we will live in the future. The president also insisted that census data will be incorporated in national statistics and will not be used against individuals.

Armed Forces Placed on Alert for 24 Oct National Census

PA2310150993 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Oct 93

[From the "0600-0900" newscast]

[Text] The Armed Forces have been placed on alert to ensure security during the national census on housing and population, as scheduled for 24 October throughout the country. Rural communities will not be affected, as the process in the field will take approximately 30 days. All Colombians living in urban centers must remain at home from 0000 to 1700 or 1800 on 24 October while the census is taken.

Almost 1 million high school students will carry out this assignment, visiting families house by house and asking 43 questions regarding utilities, education, jobs, and other matters. This information will update the social indicators and describe how Colombians are living today.

The Armed Forces and National Police were tasked with enforcing the special regulations to ensure the completion of the housing and population census. The commanders of all precincts and garrisons were specifically ordered to report to the regional directors of the census operation. The Armed Forces general command has issued orders in that respect, and the police were asked to be adamant regarding movement restrictions in effect nationwide. The authorities reaffirmed that those who do not show an appropriate pass shall be arrested. The census will begin at 0000 and end at 1700 on 24 October.

All commercial establishments and temples will remain closed. Religious ceremonies may begin at the end of the afternoon.

Candidates Comment on Budget Controversy

PA2510011093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Oct 93

[From the "24 Hours" newscast—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo has temporarily suspended the additional 100 billion pesos in the budget, which other segments are regarding as disguised congressional appropriations. Nevertheless, he has clearly stated he feels the 1991 Constitution has not been violated. Here are all the views on this subject to enable you to draw your own conclusions.

[Gaviria] "Before a single peso leaves the treasury, the Constitutionality Court will give its opinion, and the government will accept the Constitutionality Court's ruling."

Liberal presidential hopeful Humberto de la Calle supports this position.

[De la Calle] "I think it is good to suspend the implementation of these allotments to create a climate of balance and honesty in the electoral process."

For Liberal presidential candidate Carlos Lemos, lawmakers will have to pay the consequences.

[Lemos] "Second, the fact that these appropriations are to be handed out today, tomorrow, the day after, or even in five of six years does not mean this measure has not grievously violated the Constitution."

When the president was asked whether the finance minister had exerted pressure on lawmakers, he said no, because he believed the minister and congressmen were entitled to make budgetary proposals.

[Gaviria] "We cannot say that this violates the Constitution or that it is immoral. On the other hand, can anyone really believe that this will not present some sort of problem? The debate, however, cannot go on the way it has up until now."

Conservative presidential hopeful Rodrigo Marin does not share the president's view.

[Marin] "We will now see a long list of congressmen—namely, the ones who voted for the Budget Law in the Chamber of Representatives and in the Senate—rewarded or paid the promised bribe. I think the president has adopted a stance that is at odds with public morals, the Constitution, and public opinion."

Another presidential hopeful for the Liberal Party, David Turbay, issued this warning:

[Turbay] "The important thing is to make sure that funds are not being improperly used or earmarked for electoral purposes. Instead, those funds should be used to meet legitimate social needs, which must motivate allotments of this kind."

According to some critics, the largest allotment of additional budgetary funds went into the hands of bill sponsors, such as Tito Rueda. The president was also asked this question during a news conference.

[Gaviria] I think that lawmakers cannot be criticized for trying to obtain larger budget appropriations for their regions."

In the opinion of former Constituent Assembly member Antonio Navarro Wolff, the presidential candidate for

the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance, the president's statement is nothing more than a green light to patronage and an effort to defraud the Colombian people. Wolff says: I will attempt to rescue in court a Constitution that even the president seems determined to bury.

Meanwhile, precandidate Ernesto Samper supports the president's view.

[Samper] When a lawmaker in Colombia or anywhere in the world is requesting support for his region, he is being faithful to the mandate given to him by his electorate—a mandate to represent a particular region and certain regional interests."

President Gaviria clearly stated he will not enact the budget into law until fully reviewing the legal arguments and the 100 billion pesos that were frozen until after the elections.

[Gaviria] "I did not say I have already decided to sign the proposal into law and that, offhand, I will study any juridical objections of the people against the budget's approval. I must study the objections. I cannot not say I would sign the proposal into law regardless."

Presidential precandidate Enrique Parejo does not believe the government.

[Parejo] "I believe that the government's performance—poor performance, in this case—has, without a doubt, been exposed."

According to presidential precandidate Gabriel Melo, the president has resurrected the appropriations.

[Melo] "After public opinion had drowned the appropriations, the government has thrown them a lifeline. If the government truly believes these appropriations are bad, as all Colombians do, why did it freeze them? To let them cool off until the dust settles and resuscitate them in a few days."

President Cesar Gaviria challenged any citizen to prove the allotments are indeed banned appropriations. When he was asked about the global allotments to the Presidency, he answered this way:

[Gaviria] "The same gentlemen who proposed and voted for the previously mentioned project in the Constituent Assembly should then ask themselves why has this money been allocated to the Presidency. Because it is mandated by the Constitution. They voted for it, and they proposed it. They established that these resources should be allocated to the Presidency. These resources have been handled here in a transparent and aboveboard manner."

Nothing the President said today about the budget convinced retired General Miguel Maza.

[Maza] "I believe the statements he made today were unfortunate. They convinced no one."

Candidate Files Charges in Connection With Budget Law

PA2210230993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Report by Alvaro Ayala from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Antonio Navarro Wolff, presidential candidate for the AD/M-19 [19 April Movement Democratic Alliance], today filed legal charges against Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes and the congressmen who authorized the Budget Law.

The 100-billion-peso rider is now on the desk of the Prosecutor General. This is presidential candidate Antonio Navarro's last chance to achieve through the Judicial Branch what could not be done in Congress.

The AD/M-19 leader went to Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff to denounce Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes and Congressmen Tito Rueda and Juan Jose Garcia, whom he accuses of violating the Constitution by resurrecting congressional appropriations in the Budget Law.

[Begin Navarro recording] Liberal Party leader Dr. Alberto Santofimio said Senator Tito Rueda had offered him millions of pesos—just how many I do not know. Other senators also specifically denounced this type of behavior. [end recording]

Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff, who will personally conduct the investigation, has 60 days from today to decide whether there are grounds that merit initiating proceedings. The minister and the congressmen were accused of lying and bribery.

Treasury Overseer Authorized To Freeze Budget Allotments

PA2510010693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Oct 93

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] The State Council has once again given a big boost to National Treasury Overseer Jorge Garcia Hurtado by giving him the power to freeze any budgetary allotment he believes might be used for political campaigns or assistance. The high court turned down a request by the national government to revive a measure that would limit the overseer's authority to freeze such allotments only three months before the elections. The decision clearly states that the Constitution does not limit the amount of time the overseer has to fulfill his duties or that he has to request persmission from the comptroller general when performing his duties. In turn, if the overseer believes funding contained in the controversial 1994 budget will be spent improperly, he may freeze those funds without any restrictions.

Army Intelligence Director Denies Cali Cartel Links

PA2210234293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Oct 93

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] The Army's intelligence director denied today reports that there are Cali Cartel links with some of his subordinates and filed a formal lawsuit against the informer, who accused them.

According to charges filed at the Attorney General's Office by this informer, who worked for the District Prosecutor's Office in Cali, Colonel Jose Gonzalez Uribe, Col. Freddy Padilla, and Army Intelligence chief General Ivan Ramirez, himself, concealed information and had personal interests with the Cali Cartel.

In the last few hours they themselves filed lawsuits against this informer, accusing him of slander.

[Begin recording] [Ramirez] There has been a serious mistake made in these accusations, because they are completely false. This individual has adopted a mistaken position in accusing military intelligence. We can say that in this regard there are no clues that information is being concealed by certain colonels.

[Unidentified reporter] Could you guarantee the country that the Cali Cartel is not being protected in Cali?

[Ramirez] Military intelligence is known for its honesty. If you looked back, you could see that military intelligence has never been involved in the concealment of information or negligence. [end recording]

It was revealed that the informer, known as Julio Cesar Rojas, was held under arrest for drug trafficking in the United States for five years and that what he was trying to do was to infiltrate the Army.

* Defense Minister Proposes Military Reforms

* Changes to Disciplinary System Sought

94SM0026A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 16 Sep 93 p 12A

[Article by Nelson Freddy Padilla C.]

[Text] The defense minister has asked the national congress for six months of extraordinary powers for the President, for a restructuring, particularly in the area of discipline. Senior military officers and a special committee of six members of congress will work with the Government on the new initiative. Pardo Rueda in Paris explains the proposal.

With the police restructuring already under way, the national Government has decided to take advantage of the momentum to give a green light to reform of the Armed Forces, particularly in the area of discipline.

EL ESPECTADOR has learned that the initiative, supported and sponsored by senior military officers, has as its backbone a proposal that Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda presented to the National Congress last 2 September.

Pursuant to number 10 of article 150 of the national constitution, the senior official requested that extraordinary powers be invested in President Cesar Gaviria to begin legislating on the issue.

In doing so, the commander in chief will have the collaboration of the defense chief, six members of congress, and the military generals themselves. The latter, with the support of legal advisors, are working on special boards to define the restructuring process.

According to the document Pardo Rueda delivered to the congress, in principle it will seek to change the statutes governing the disciplinary, evaluation, and classification systems governing the activities of the Colombian military institutions: the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

The first article of the proposal refers to drastic changes to be made in the current rules governing the Military Forces disciplinary system, as set forth in decree 0085 of 10 January 1989.

Although the specific changes will only be known after the committees' working sessions have been completed, it was agreed that the standards to be analyzed are the following: issues of generalities, causes, faults, sanctions, aspects of discipline, claims, dismissal from the Armed Forces for bad conduct, courts of honor, disciplinary documentation, and additional provisions. The extensive set of regulations, which is the legal backbone of the military establishment, consists of nine parts and 34 chapters.

Moreover, the same article announces changes in the regulations for evaluating and classifying all Armed Forces personnel.

Standardization will be reviewed in the following areas: generalities, evaluation, classification, claims, professional profiles, forms, and additional provisions. The second article of the proposal presented by the defense minister recognizes that leaders of the two Chambers will name a special committee comprised of three senators and three representatives, including the advocates, for the purpose of advising and collaborating with the national Government in formulating the extraordinary powers.

According to a senior Government official, "what we seek is to bring the Military Forces fully in line with the new constitutional order, so that they may completely carry out their duties, applying the appropriate regulations."

He added that "we are attempting to mold institutional discipline into a new legal framework, to reduce to practically zero the excesses of certain of those who wear

the uniform (see table), and to be increasingly demanding in terms of their professional profile."

[Box, p 12A] Pardo Rueda: "It Is Necessary"

Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda confirmed the new reforms and characterized them as "necessary" when questioned by this newspaper's correspondent in Paris, the very city where he was taking steps to implement the Armed Forces reforms.

When asked whether the national Government is seeking to implement a reform in the Military Forces similar to the one currently in progress at the National Police, he explained that "basically it involves trying to solicit from Congress special powers to reform the disciplinary system, to strengthen certain standards of conduct and punishment, and to conform to the new constitutional and legal realities. That is its scope, plain and simple. It intends to modify certain aspects of the disciplinary system. But it does not have any scope other than what I mentioned."

Regarding whether the initiative's significance will involve seeking greater protection for human rights on the part of the Colombian Government, he said: "Well, primarily it involves adapting this regime to the provisions of the new national constitution and the new legal provisions. It is more a process of adaptation to a new legal reality than a random change. It really is needed."

Nevertheless, in the defense minister's view the human rights situation is one element which it is necessary to address. "I would not take a stance until we are able to familiarize ourselves with what the attorney general's office, which is an independent entity, is currently analyzing and shaping in newspaper reports with respect to the country's human rights situation. And that evaluation is what we are using as a reference."

Pardo Rueda acknowledged that violations "continue in Colombia, which cannot be denied, but we are continuing to work to further reduce them. The Attorney General observes that the number of cases against the Armed Forces has fallen over the last two years, between issuing the first and the second reports, but he believes that a worrisome level of human rights violations by the police continues. That is why police reform and the citizenry's strengthening of control over the police are two instruments the Government has put into place to improve not only the police's effectiveness, but also, if possible, to achieve a record of zero abuse of citizens by the authorities."

In answer to the question as to whether senior military officers have agreed to collaborate in their own reform, Pardo Rueda stated that "this is an initiative by the Armed Forces themselves, in which they have recognized certain needs for reform of the disciplinary regime. Clearly that need has been acknowledged and thus reforms have been agreed to."

Disciplinary Sanctions in the Armed Forces (July 1992 to March 1993)

Month	National Army	National Navy	Colombian Air Force (FAC)	Total
July	1,343	468	94	1,905
August	1,235	666	135	2,036
September	1,436	579	117	2,159
October	1,675	668	134	2,477
November	1,434	793	126	2,353
December	1,489	688	41	2,218
Subtotal 1992	8,639	3,862	647	13,148
January	1,561	355	129	2,045
February	1,686	378	88	2,152
March	1,662	353	92	2,107
Subtotal 1993	4,909	1,086	309	6,304
Total	13,548	4,948	956	19,452

* Support Expressed

94SM0026B Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 17 Sep 93 p 7A

[Text] "It is a very important step, says the attorney general, named advocate for the proposal in the Senate.

The Government's initiative to reform the Military Forces, to shape them to the country's new constitutional order, received almost unanimous support yesterday.

Several national leaders characterized as beneficial the restructuring of the disciplinary regime, and the evaluation and classification of the military institutions proposed by Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda, through a proposal in which extraordinary powers are requested for six months in order for the president to legislate on the issue.

Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta Padilla called attention to the Government's decision because "it is a good step and it is important that it be taken."

In the public minister's view, "this reform is identified with a position that the Attorney General's office has repeated, since we have been insisting for two years that this be done. We need to promote a review of all internal control mechanisms and readjust them."

Arrieta believes that although the Armed forces regime "is strict," what is needed is for sanctioned cases to "be in the hands of judges who understand the importance of the role of the disciplinary process." The attorney general added that at the same time, modifications should be made to the military penal justice system, for it to be more efficient.

"This type of reform has been discussed at several levels and has received the best possible response from senior military officers," he commented.

Great Expectations

For his part, House Representative Ramiro Lucio believes it is one of the best initiatives the Government has put forward, because "the country is aware that we cannot continue with the Armed Forces in disgrace. The time has come for public opinion and the Armed Forces to be reassured, to carry out a very profound restructuring."

The congressman said that the National Congress has to be prepared to collaborate in this new process so it will not end up "throwing good money after bad and getting a skin-deep reform."

Lucio observed that even though the proposal presented by the government addresses only the Armed Forces' disciplinary, evaluation, and classification systems, "that is already very important because the question of discipline is not an insignificant issue; on the contrary, that is where the biggest problems lie. Lack of discipline is the first step towards corruption and that is where we must start." "The Armed Forces have to be modernized and modernization involves efficiency and professionalism and if we want to make the Armed Forces more professional and better evaluated, the Congress must be capable of addressing that."

Presidential precandidate Juan Diego Jaramillo said that the most important thing in this type of initiative is that the changes be in a positive direction and not lower the morale of the Armed Forces.

"The Police reform was absolutely useless, reducing the morale of its members and making them public whipping-boys as violators of human rights, and the most serious thing is that this military reform may lead to exactly the same: destroying the little confidence the Army has in itself and the little confidence the people have in the Armed Forces."

According to him, "the Army must be psychologically crushed hearing that the problem is inner corruption. The reality is that the Army is dug in and on the defensive across the entire country and we need an Army that can win the war in the short term. The defense minister is misinformed as to the reality of the military establishment. What he has proposed is terrible."

A high Government source insisted yesterday that "this reform is being studied because there are, for example, certain contradictions between the military regulations and constitutional provisions."

According to that official, one example involves the arrest of members of the Armed Forces now that the new police charter allows only civilian judges to carry out those types of sanctions. In this case the fourth chapter of the fourth part of the Armed Forces disciplinary regulation should be modified with respect to carrying out the sanctions. "It is necessary to study whether to eliminate the different types of arrest or modify the types of sanctions."

Named Advocate

While the restructuring of the Armed Forces has already started to generate debate, the Second Committee of the Senate of the Republic, before which the defense minister presented the reform proposal, has named as the issue's advocate Senator Humberto Pelaez, who will present his report in a few days.

Pelaez will be assisted by two other senators and when the proposal is passed to the House of Representatives three house members will also be named to work together with the national Government to agree upon changes within the military institutions.

The congressmen will have the collaboration of senior military officers headed by Armed Forces Commander General Ramon Emilio Gil Bermudez.

Ecuador

No Resignation by Industry Minister, President Says

PA2210163493 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Oct 93

[From "The Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen said today [21 October] that Jorge Garcia, the minister of industry, commerce and integration, has not tendered his resignation. The president was commenting on news reports from Colombia indicating that Garcia was stepping down. Speaking with reporters at Guayaquil Airport, Duran-Ballen said: Resignations from any official appointed by the Executive Branch should be presented to the president, and I have not received any resignation letters from any ministers.

The Colombian radio network Caracol reported that Garcia's resignation was over a disagreement with Colombia and Venezuela regarding import tariffs that must be unified to open the way for trade within the Andean region. Colombian Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos admitted that he had heard the report but was skeptical about whether it had anything to do with the agreements between the Andean countries—Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela—if at all true, and added that Garcia's decision was more likely due to internal matters in Ecuador. [sentence as heard]

According to sources participating in a normal session of the Cartagena Agreement, which ended in Santa Fe de Bogota today [21 October], Minister Garcia did not participate in the day's meetings. The same sources reported the resignation and hinted that it came after disagreements with Agriculture and Livestock Minister Mariano Gonzalez, whose aides said he was not in Quito. Personnel at Minister Garcia's office reported that the official was in Colombia for the Cartegena Agreement meetings and would return to Quito from Bogota tomorrow [22 October].

Government, Striking Teachers Hold 'Radical' Positions

PA2210235393 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Oct 93

[From "The Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] The government and the teachers who have been on strike for three weeks have adopted radical positions in the past few hours regarding a dispute about the teachers union's demand for better salaries. Education Minister Eduardo Pena announced last night over a radio network the dismissal of 49 leaders of the Maoist National Union of Teachers [UNE], which called for an indefinite strike on 4 October.

UNE President Ramiro Beltran said this morning that the strike will continue, because the dismissal of the 49 leaders has further antagonized the teachers, who are merely fighting for a just and reasonable cause.

Information Minister Carlos Vera and Administrative Development Secretary Benjamin Rosales stated that the government's position was definite. Rosales said that he believes this forceful measure—the elimination of budget allocations for those leaders who are encouraging the strike—will be lifted gradually. Beltran said that the 120,000 UNE members will pay the salaries of the dismissed teachers. Beltran said that this measure shows that there is no difference between this seemingly democratic government and a military dictatorship.

Banana Producers Reject Compensations Offered by EC

PA2210233593 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Oct 93

[From "The Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] Guayaquil—Ecuadoran banana producers today rejected the compensations offered by the EC to a group of banana-exporting countries that have been hard-hit by its decision to limit banana imports from Latin America. Segundo Wong, president of the Reybanpac [Rey Banano del Pacifico] export company—one of the largest in Ecuador—said the best compensation the EC can offer is an increase in the annual quota assigned to Latin America from 2 million to 2.5 million tons of bananas.

Paraguay

President Acknowledges Activist Who Attacked Congress

PY2210201093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 22 Oct 93 p 5

[Text] Colorado Party leaders yesterday visited Government House to convey their support to President Juan Carlos Wasmosy and his administration. Strangely enough, the delegation included Emiliano Garcia, a member of the Chore municipal council and the local Colorado Party precinct who has been accused of being one of those responsible for the attack on Congress on 7 October, when inebriated Colorado Party members did not allow congressmen to enter the building. President Wasmosy went as far as to embrace Garcia, although at the time he had stated that the demonstrators had attacked not only Congress but democracy as well. In his statement to Congress on 12 October, Wasmosy said the violent event that took place was not directed at specific congressmen "but rather at the government of the nation and the democratic process."

Those responsible for the violence were formally charged and Criminal Judge Jorge Gonzalez Rioboo went as far as to order their arrest and sent the appropriate warrant to the National Police. Prosecutor Jose Emilio Yaluk also asked for the arrest of those responsible. The national police chief, General Superintendent German Franco Vargas, was dismissed as a result of these events.

Although the current police authorities claimed to be unable to find those responsible for the violence, the leaders of the violent demonstration appeared in court on 21 October. Garcia went to court with Filino Monges and Oscar Rios, who are also Colorado Party grassroots activists. Judge Angel Barchini withdrew the warrant for their arrest and Garcia went to Government House in the afternoon.

Speaking on behalf of the party, Colorado Party President Blas N. Riquelme told Wasmosy on 21 October: "Mr. President, nothing can upset the relations between your administration and the leadership of our party. We propose to work together so that we can bestow on the nation the benefits that your excellency's Colorado Party administration is seeking to ensure—social well-being, political freedom, and cultural progress for all our citizens. We may have short-changed you, Mr. President."

Riquelme added: "Certain situations may have been misunderstood or misinterpreted that might have led to apparent disagreements."

Riquelme also explained: "The political doomsayers have no other tools but to try to obtain advantages at the expense of our party, which currently is in power."

Wasmosy answered by saying: "I receive many visitors in Government House every day. You can believe me when I say this is probably the most pleasant of all because you are my fellow party members, my comrades in the republican cause, my main supporters in the task of getting Paraguay ready to effectively face the approaching new millennium."

As far as Paraguayan Vice President Angel Roberto Seifart is concerned, the attack on Congress staged by his fellow party members "was an unadvised, spontaneous demonstration by grassroots leaders." He said this when asked about the meeting between Wasmosy and Colorado Party Executive Board members. He added: "Colorado Party members cannot hate each other forever."

Opposition Legislators React

PY2210222893

[Editorial Report] Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish on 22 October publishes three unattributed articles on opposition legislators' reaction to the presidential "embrace" of an individual who attacked Congress.

In a 200-word article on page 3, Chamber of Deputies President Francisco Jose De Vargas, of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, said: "The embrace is inconsistent" with President Juan Carlos Wasmosy's previous positions and "might cost him dearly." De Vargas said Wasmosy "might end up losing Congressional and the people's support" with this type of position, adding that "the embrace was the result of his inexperience and a regrettable act of inconsistency prepared for him by his advisers." De Vargas concluded by saying that "despite this tremendous error I will continue believing" in Wasmosy.

In a 200-word article on the same page, Deputy Luis Alberto Mauro, of the National Encounter Alliance, said: "The president's attitude is regrettable and sad for Paraguayan democracy." The legislator added that Wasmosy's "ambivalence creates confusion among the people" who do not know "which president to chose: the Wasmosy who supports democracy and Congress" or the Wasmosy "who embraces Congress' attackers."

In a 200-word article on page 4, Senator Carlos Romero Pereira, of the Colorado Party's Luis Maria Argana faction, "condemned Wasmosy's embrace" of Emiliano Garcia, "one of Congress' attackers."

The senator said: "Wasmosy's attitude is absolutely incomprehensible. It tarnishes his institutionalist position assumed before Congress." Romero added: "No one can claim ignorance to justify an embrace" with an outlaw.

Wasmosy Justifies 'Embrace'

PY2310190593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 23 Oct 93 p 2

[Excerpts] President Juan Carlos Wasmosy yesterday evening justified the much-criticized embrace he gave Emiliano Garcia, a San Pedro Colorado Party precinct member and one of the leaders of the violent demonstration that took place in front of the Congress building on 7 October.

Wasmosy stated that as long as the courts do not pronounce judgment on who those responsible for the riots outside Congress are, he cannot ostracize anybody. [passage omitted]

The head of state pointed out that every fellow party member who happens to go to Government House will be welcome. "I do not see why one should feign shock when no charges have been brought against him yet," he said. [passage omitted]

Judge Disqualifies Self From Case; Case Expanded

PY2210212693 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 22 Oct 93 p 6

[Text] While Judge Angel Barchini disqualified himself from hearing the case of those who attacked Congress, lawyer Jorge Galli expanded the lawsuit against the attackers, also involving Del Rosario Riveros, a popular Chacarita resident known as Na Delo, and others.

The lawsuit now also affects General Resquin Mayor Baldomero Gimenez Villalba; Antonio Santacruz, who is the secretary of the General Resquin justice of the peace; School 997 director Ramon Villaboa; and Vidal Britos, president of the General Resquin electoral board.

Barchini disqualified himself in light of a lawsuit filed by Chamber of Deputies President Francisco Jose De Vargas, who criticized the work by Barchini and asked that he immediately stop adjudicating the case.

The judge claimed there is enmity between himself and De Vargas. The case now will fall under the jurisdiction of the 10th Criminal Court, headed by Judge Carlos Monges.

Concerning the lawsuit and the objections raised by De Vargas to an imprisonment cancellation order issued yesterday, Barchini said that if the lawmaker "does not like the law, that's his problem and not a problem of the lawmakers who approved the law. I only enforce it."

Barchini said De Vargas "is totally ignorant of the law," adding: "To the deputy who tells me that I am corrupt, I will reply that he is using foul language."

Military Chief Comments on Military Bills

PY2310000193 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 22 Oct 93 p 8

[Excerpts] One of the most sensitive problems straining legislative branch-Armed Forces relations was overcome during the 20 October weekly meeting between high-ranking military commanders and Commander in Chief Juan Carlos Wasmosy at the Armed Forces central headquarters. Military commanders decided to accept the congressional initiative suspending military affiliations with the Colorado Party until soldiers retire.

According to General Pedro Concepcion de la Cruz Ocampos, Armed Forces joint chief of staff, the Armed Forces commanders analyzed some conflicting issues with the commander in chief, such as the disaffiliation of soldiers from the Colorado Party and the suspension of food rations.

"The Armed Forces will abide by the bill suspending the affiliation of active-duty soldiers because we consider the bill in accordance with constitutional provisions," Ocampos said.

The general added that the Armed Forces' commanders made the decision "unanimously and by consensus" after an in-depth study of the issue. [passage omitted]

The bill temporarily suspending the affiliation of active-duty soldiers already has been approved by the Senate and right now is been studied by Chamber of Deputies advisory committees. [passage omitted]

Gen. Pedro Concepcion de la Cruz Ocampos said the cuts introduced by the congressional budget committee in the defense budget constitute "a provocative attitude and persecution" against the military institution, affecting the Armed Forces' operational capacity.

Ocampos said: "It seems that legislators have hidden intentions against the Armed Forces" because they want to make cuts in areas affecting military operational capacity such as construction, equipment and military machinery maintenance, and gasoline. [passage omitted]

Gen. Ocampos said the military commanders who met President Wasmosy on 20 October rejected the proposal for eliminating food rations for soldiers and officers. [passage omitted]

Ocampos pointed out that an example of the inconvenience of giving officers and soldiers extra money instead of food rations is clear in the Chaco region due to the lack of food shops or supermarkets near Chaco forts where soldiers can purchase food.

"This is something not contemplated by legislators and it is only an example," Ocampos stressed when emphasizing the need to preserve the food distribution system within the Armed Forces.

Ocampos added that the commanders agreed on the need for more and better controls over the food and equipment distribution system in order to avoid irregularities and illegal activities at military quartermaster installations.

"A strict control of purchases made under the chapter of food and equipment will allow for better implementation of the military budget," Ocampos stressed. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Hugo Estigarribia yesterday harshly criticized opposition political leaders and Colorado Party Arganaist faction followers for their efforts to subordinate the Armed Forces to civilian institutions. According to Estigarribia, the opposition wishes to humiliate the Armed Forces with different measures that reveal a desire for revenge and a not-too-well-disguised resentment. Estigarribia also said the opposition wants to divide the military to prevent a continuation of the Armed Forces-government-Colorado Party unity. The minister made these surprising remarks at the "Dr. Antolin Irala" 9th Colorado Party Precinct.

Estigarribia insisted that all opposition efforts will not destroy "the affinity uniting the Armed Forces, the government, and the Colorado Party."

"Let us not play the game of those who want to divide and reign because united we can make sure the Colorado Party will rule the country for many years," Estigarribia said.

"The opposition does not hesitate to use everything at its disposal to humiliate the Armed Forces. Some of their proposals reveal a desire for revenge and a not-too-well-disguised resentment. Those elements will not lead us to a path of understanding and balance of forces between civilian and military institutions," Estigarribia told his audience, which was made up mostly of young Colorado Party followers. [passage omitted]

Estigarribia also defended the food distribution system for the military, emphasizing that the opposition effort to eliminate food rations will provoke "an important psychological setback because from the point of view of those affected, the government is not doing anything to protect them."

Estigarribia also questioned the opposition attempt to disaffiliate active-duty soldiers.

"The disaffiliation is the first step of an alleged Armed Forces institutionalization process. The real purpose, however, is to get them to stop being Colorado Party followers. This is why we believe the path being followed is wrong and dangerous," Estigarribia warned. [passage omitted]

Commercial Relations With PRC Under Consideration

PY2210212993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 22 Oct 93 p 12

[Text] Despite the warning by the Taiwanese ambassador, which the press released yesterday, Foreign Minister Diogenes Martinez told journalists about the possibility of our country opening a channel for commercial relations with mainland China.

Speaking at Lopez Palace, Martinez said yesterday the possibility of opening a commercial channel with the PRC is being studied.

The foreign minister's statement is an indirect answer to a note the Taiwanese Embassy in our country sent to several institutions, warning that the promises of purchases made by PRC lawmakers—who recently visited Asuncion—are part of a political maneuver.

Martinez said relations with the PRC "are so far totally intangible," adding that the Taiwanese are "our allies and friends."

"They (the Taiwanese) have expressed concern about the very fluent contact that we are having with mainland China. And we explained to them that our government position is not to lose them but to maintain our diplomatic relations. But at the same time we have clarified our position. We hope to promote our relations with mainland China, and that these relations may be more fluent and more profitable for our development, for Paraguayan development," he emphasized.

He added that our country wants to sign agreements and engage in direct bilateral cooperation with Taiwan.

Martinez explained that the conversations with the PRC lawmakers who recently visited Asuncion do not mean that Paraguay will open an embassy or diplomatic office in that Asian nation. "That is not within sight," he said in response to a question.

There Cannot Be Relations With the Two Chinas

The foreign minister explained that it is impossible to maintain relations with the two Chinas. "That is why we talk about maintaining diplomatic relations with Taiwan, and beginning commercial relations with mainland China," he said.

He said relations with one of the countries will be canceled if any changes are to be made. He explained, however, that this does not imply any incompatibility. "Uruguay and Argentina currently have a commercial Taiwanese office, along with the diplomatic mission of the PRC," he added.

The PRC has a Large Market

The foreign minister said the matter should be carefully studied to see the most advantageous side for our country "because there are two sides: first, the PRC has a large market, but, second, Taiwan has sophisticated technology and impressive currency reserves."

He said Council of Ministers' experts will properly evaluate this situation.

Commentary Sees 'Nothing New' in Wasmosy Government

PY2210173193 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 21 Oct 93 p 10

[Commentary by Washington Ashwell, former Technical Planning Secretariat executive director: "Where Are We Going?"]

[Text] It is not that people do not want to see, as the colorful commercial says, but the truth is that so far there is nothing new to see or praise. Despite all the promises and statements to the effect, people continue to wait for the expert touch that will mark the beginning of the new government's reorienting action. So far we have merely seen the same figures, the same policies, and the same ostentatious style of past governments. The same guards, the same motorcycles. The only new ray of hope is the governability pact, which we anticipate will become an effective instrument for the consolidation of political peace and democratic order. Paraguayans have made many sacrifices and placed a lot of hope on those objectives.

It has been said that a government must define its orientation and programs during its first 100 days in power. It has also been said that during the following two years the government must implement its proposed programs, while in the final two years it must inaugurate completed works and say goodbye. Sixty days is still a very short time for a government to do everything, but it would suffice if it appears to be doing something or if it is telling us what it intends to do. The truth is that not only have we not made any progress but we have not even been told where we are going. It is very interesting to note that it is not the government which is speaking about government goals, or the spokesmen of the representatives of the party that elected him. The president's publicity is being supported and directed by an anonymous group called the "Christian Leaders for Democracy." In this aspect we see a great change. Are we to understand that the government is taking on a different identity, detaching itself from the party that elected it? This new move may be dangerous. In all other aspects things continue unchanged, as we will now prove.

The fiscal deficit keeps growing and the government does not say how it will be financed. Officials do not even recognize that there is a deficit. Public investment is at a standstill for lack of resources and so far nothing has been said about the immediate prospects for reactivating or orienting it. It is being stated that the 3,000 km of roads that the government plans to build will cost $1 billion, but no one has said where that huge sum will come from. The sad truth is that nothing will be built without financing.

The government has yet to define its budget. The greatest obstacles and harshest criticisms are coming from within. Each ministry requests more money than it can spend and when it fails to obtain it, publicly announces that hundreds of thousands of children will be left without schools or that infant mortality will possibly increase. All this because the budget does not allocate them more money because there is no way to finance more spending. This is even being said by government officials. If the government does not demonstrate clarity and unity over diagnosing possibilities, we cannot expect unity and coordination during the programming and implementation of our spending. It seems that the government does not want to accept the fact that the only alternative is austerity and that this will not be a period of plenty. The fiscal reform has so far been an obvious failure. It does not produce enough to finance the budget's administrative spending. New solutions are needed, but no one says anything about them.

With regard to credit and foreign aid, there is a large negative flow of capital because the country is paying out much more than it receives in foreign aid. Let us hope that the unfortunate recipe devised by [former Finance Minister Juan Jose] Diaz Perez and [Central Bank Director Luis Enrique] Breuer—who decided to pay the external debt with the Central Bank's international reserves—will not be applied once again, because the imbalance would surely reach catastrophic proportions. Moreover, this situation will not be changed in what remains of the year or in the forthcoming one. Thus, two more years will slip through our fingers due to a lack of national financing.

Inflation continues unabated. This is the inevitable result of the fiscal imbalance and the vacillating monetary policy. The exchange rate continues its upward trend and the government has not yet adopted a stance on these subjects. Let us hope the extended economic team or the Christian Leaders for Democracy may soon tell us something about this sensitive issue. There is no time to lose. We can neither turn a deaf ear nor a blind eye to such an obvious fact as the daily rise in prices of consumer goods. Bus fares have gone up, and it has been announced that telephone and public utility rates will be hiked. Every increase is determined by actions or omissions of the public sector. Everything remains the same.

Unemployment continues to be a major problem and no measure geared to palliating or reducing it has so far been announced. On the contrary, the level of unemployment is rising and, as a result, despair and crime mushroom.

Dwindling profits caused by the decline in the price of cotton weighs heavily on the rural population. What is more, farmers are now required to pay higher interest and defray the cost of the campaign against the boll weevil. If this is all what neoliberalism has to offer, then I cannot endorse it. Nothing has changed. In spite of what the anonymous Christian Leaders for Democracy may say, the Paraguayan siesta continues.

As for privatization, we have not heard a word about it. The silence that reigns over the issue seems to ask: Why should one assume that everything will be done now if nothing has been done during the last three years? Most state-owned enterprises are operating with ever-increasing deficits. No solution will be found to the pressing fiscal deficit problem unless an appropriate privatization plan is implemented.

These considerations are not prompted by a desire to criticize. On the contrary, we want to contribute with the best of our knowledge to find appropriate solutions to the difficult economic and social problems confronting the country, like any citizen interested in the future of his country. The future of democracy is at stake. If this government fails, the great democratic achievements, and the atmosphere of freedom, tolerance, and respect for human rights which were so eagerly pursued might not be consolidated or upheld. That would indeed be absolutely tragic. This is why we want the Government to get ahead and its endeavors to be crowned by success. But it will have to readjust and reformulate its plans to achieve this. It has 40 days to do so and to begin implementing them. It is not true that we refuse to see things. Let us hope that there will soon be something positive to praise and applaud because we Paraguayans, without distinction of political partisanship or faction, will all act accordingly.

Peru

Fujimori Says MRTA To Be Eliminated by December

PA2310042893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Oct 93

[From the "Direct Line" newscast; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori today visited two houses used as hideouts by some Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] members who were captured recently. The MRTA had held Hector Delgado Parker, David Ayon Vera, and General Hector Gieri captive in one of the houses and businessmen Raul Hiraoka in the other.

Fujimori made a final invitation to the MRTA to surrender.

Businessman Hiraoka was kidnapped on 9 July after a spectacular shoot-out and taken to a house in Santa Patricia neighborhood in La Molina, where he was put into a small room.

[Fujimori] "He was brought to this house as soon as he was kidnapped and held for approximately six weeks. The house is too hot. We had to turn the fan on. This room is somewhat bigger than the one in Vesalia in San Borja. At least it has a small dining room and the walls

have even been decorated. The bedroom is very small. A person can stretch full length with difficulty."

The documents of Chilean citizen Alejandro Astorga Valdes were also found in this house. Fujimori praised Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Sima's remarks, saying no extradition will be requested for Chilean citizens accused of terrorism. They will be tried according to Peruvian law.

[Unidentified reporter] "Did the Chilean foreign minister comment on Chileans found guilty of crimes in Peru?

[Fujimori] "Yes. In accordance with international standards, people who perpetrate crimes in Peru must be tried under Peruvian law."

Fujimori later visited another of the searched homes in Operation Scorpion that was located in Paseo de la Republica, La Capullana neighborhood, Surcos. The house, which the MRTA people bought in 1989, served as a prison. Prisoners were kept in a tunnel in the lower part of the closet. Most of the businessmen kidnapped by the terrorist organization were held there.

[Fujimori] "You have climbed down this ladder into this dismal basement with difficulty."

This was one of the so-called people's prisons built by the MRTA, which the movement used to hold businessman David Bayon Vera, Hector Delgado Parker, and Gen. Geri. The room is small and there is a concrete bed. It is ventilated by a small duct. Speaking to the media, Fujimori made a final invitation to the last remaining MRTA leaders, Nestor Serpa Cartolini and Miguel Rincon Rincon, to surrender.

[Fujimori] "I repeat. The MRTA will be liquidated by December 1993. We are after them. I am seriously warning all MRTA and Shining Path leaders, both high and low, to surrender. The government will not back down. Either they surrender or they will have to deal with the police and face the consequences they already know."

'Terrorists' Derail Freight Train; No Casualties

PA2210144093 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Oct 93

[From the "Good Morning Peru" newscast]

[Text] Another terrorist attack occurred early this morning on the central highway. Terrorist criminals dynamited a freight train from the central sierra, derailing five freight cars and damaging the railway. Fortunately, there were no casualties.

The train has been cordoned off by the police. The terrorists used cables to detonate the powerful explosives that derailed the train.

Fujimori on Terrorist Attacks, CCD Tax Exemptions

PA2310234593 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Report on interview with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori by unidentified reporters; place and date not given; from the "Direct Line" newscast—recorded]

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has expressed opposition to extending privileges to any CCD [Constituent Democratic Congress] representative who unilaterally exonerates himself from making payments to the National Housing Fund in light of the fact that salaries of CCD representatives increased to 7,200 soles this month.

Meanwhile, concerning the terrorist attacks that took place last night, the president indicated that these should not be interpreted as a rejection of Abimael Guzman's letters but, rather, as desperate attacks by radical sectors within Shining Path.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] I never said that terrorism has been completely eliminated. The MRTA [Tupac Amaruc Revolutionary Movement] will be defeated in December, but Shining Path will continue to exist. I have already said that we will get rid of this group in 1995. Do not ask me for miracles.

[Reporter] Mr. President...

[Fujimori, interrupting] What previous administrations were unable to do in 13 years, this administration is going to accomplish in 18 months.

[Reporter] Why have some senators been saying that you have dropped your guard because...

[Fujimori, interrupting] That is untrue, untrue.

[Reporter] They also have said...

[Fujimori, interrupting] Those are evaluations by analysts more interested in politics—people who know nothing about Shining Path. There are very few people here in Peru who really know anything about Shining Path. I do not want to sound overconfident, but I cannot make decisions based on the so-called Shining Path experts. If they truly had sound knowledge of Shining Path, we would never have fallen into this problem to begin with.

[Reporter] Some sectors believe this most recent terrorist attack could have been a reaction by radical elements within Shining Path to Abimael Guzman's letter. Do you believe that this might be the case?

[Fujimori] Those are false and baseless rumors spread by some people who are incredible dissatisfied with the accomplishments the government has been able to achieve. Those are unfounded rumors.

[Reporter] Then you believe there is no connection to Guzman's letter?

[Fujimori] No connection whatsoever. In comparison to the previous congress, we are now saving approximately $80 million. I have asked the CCD to implement cost-cutting and savings measures. However, in terms of the National Housing Fund, if there are any exemptions granted to CCD congressmen, I believe this should be eliminated because it should not be granted. [answer as heard] [end recording]

Government Extends State of Emergency North of Lima

PA2310212793 Paris AFP in Spanish 1934 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Lima, 23 Oct (AFP)—It was officially disclosed today that the government has decided to extend the current state of emergency an additional 60 days in the provinces of Huancabamba and Puira, some 1,200 km north of Lima, "in order to expedite operations against terrorist and drug-trafficking activities in the region."

The emergency measures, published today in the official state gazette EL PERUANO, include the suspension of constitutional guarantees and using the Armed Forces to preserve public order. The authorities noted that since insurgents started operating in Ayacucho, which is located in the Andean southeast and is considered a bulwark in the "armed struggle," more than 60 percent of national territory has been placed under emergency measures, despite serious defeats sustained by insurgent groups.

Six 'Repented' 'Terrorist' Leaders To Leave Country

PY2210235793 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Oct 93 p A15

[Text] Six terrorist leaders, from both the Shining Path and MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement], who took refuge under the Repentance Law, will leave the country this week with new identities to begin a new life. Ten other "repented" subversives also are waiting for the decision of the commission studying the case so they can leave the country too.

This was revealed yesterday by Daniel Espichan Tumay, prosecutor for terrorist cases, who added that they will leave for another country in our continent, with their families and a trip allowance that will be sufficient to allow their settlement without major problems. In the other country they also will be helped in finding a job and becoming honorable men.

For obvious reasons, he did not release the names of the six terrorists who are leaving the country nor the date of their departure, but noted that they were important "commanders" who managed to reach the terrorist boards, and their declarations helped in the arrests of other leaders and the seizure of weapons and valuable documents. Four are from MRTA and two from the Shining Path.

The change of identity and the departure from the country were granted to them based on the additional benefits provided for by the Repentance Law.

He said the "repented" also will receive their electoral and military documents with a new identification. With those documents they are granted a passport to be able to travel like any other citizen together with their families.

Dr. Escpichan Tumay added that until last week there were 800 "repented" terrorists nationwide. Among them, 350 were from the Huallaga Front, 220 from Ayacucho, 70 from Huancayo, and the rest from Lima and other areas of the country.

He said: "To these we must add the large number of subversives sheltered under this law after the capitulation of Abimael Guzman. I understand that they are doing so in groups."

Government Accelerates Fishing Companies' Privatization

PY2210193793 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 8 Oct 93 p A1

[Text] In order to accelerate the privatization of public fishing companies (Pesca Peru, Epsep, and Cerper [State Fishing Meal and Fish Oil Production Agency, Peruvian Enterprise for Fishing Services, and Public Enterprise for Fishing Certificates]), the government yesterday ordered the removal of some presidents and executive board members who maintained a "public control" mentality and opposed or hindered the privatization process for those public companies.

This was revealed yesterday to EL COMERCIO by Fishing Minister Jaime Sobero Taira as he commented on the case of Pesca Peru President Cesar Vargas Faucheux, who was replaced yesterday by retired Rear Admiral Dante Matellini Burga through three resolutions published in the official gazette yesterday.

The minister reiterated that before Faucheux was dismissed, changes were made in the executive boards of Epsep and Cerper. He said the new government policy to accelerate the privatization of fishing companies has ordered that the Cepris (Special Privatization Committees) become members of the companies' board of directors.

This means that as of yesterday, Eric Topf Balaban and Martha Vargas Gonzales, members of the Pesca Peru Cepri, have become members of the company's board of directors.

Venezuela

Armed Forces Commander Dispels Rumors of Electoral Fraud

PA2210162293 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 20 Oct 93 p 3

[Report on interview with Brigadier General Fernan Barroso Fuenmayor, chief of the Venezuelan Armed Forces Unified Command, by Jose Ramon Diaz; place and date not given]

[Text] The National Armed Forces [FAN] will undoubtedly do its best to ensure the success of the 5 December elections through the Republic Plan. Consequently, Army Brigadier General Fernan Barroso Fuenmayor, chief of the Armed Forces Unified Command and responsible for fulfilling the Defense Ministry's order on the implementation of Republic Plan VII, warned that the FAN will repulse any effort to alter the electorate's decision.

The military leader was responding to this reporter's questions about rumors begin circulated by local political figures to the effect that a coup d'etat will take place prior to the elections or that a delay plot is in the works to ignore the winner of the elections, regardless of which of the current candidates he may be.

According to Gen. Barroso Fuenmayor, the FAN does not meddle in partisan politics but it is their duty by mandate of the constitution and laws, to guarantee the integrity and freedom of the republic and the stability of the democratic institutions.

[Barroso Fuenmayor] The FAN ensures adherence to the Constitution and the law, adherence to which will always be above any other duty. In other words, we men of arms are obedient, apolitical and non-deliberating.

[EL GLOBO] Although President Ramon J. Velasquez has reiterated that the dangers that once existed "no longer exist and problems are no longer problems," in practice there has been and still is political hatred to the point where certain presidential candidates are already crying fraud.

[Barroso Fuenmayor] I will guarantee the FAN's successful execution of Republic Plan VII, the most important military operation devised to lend institutional support to the democratic system's electoral process. Therefore, we will be in a position to avert any attempt to alter the Venezuelan people's electoral decision.

[Diaz] **General, is there still talk about a coup d'etat?**

[Barroso Fuenmayor] Listen. I, who am chief of the FAN Unified Command and in charge, by Defense Ministry mandate, of Republic Plan VII, am telling you that there will be no coup d'etat in Venezuela. Elections will be held on 5 December. The FAN is working fervently for the country's full development. Its mission is clear and decisive.

[EL GLOBO] Of course, the chief of the CUFAN [FAN Unified Command] admits that passions are running high, but he says that is normal in every democratic society. Nevertheless, he believes that civilians are wise enough to resolve the country's greatest problems.

Regarding his command's latest efforts to contribute to the electoral process, he said that on 26 October the 26 garrison chiefs will hold a meeting to examine and finalize details regarding the Republic Plan.

[Barroso Fuenmayor] We are already summoning the country's 26 zone or garrison chiefs for the purpose of adopting precautionary measures and preparing for this important meeting, which will be held in a building adjacent to the Defense Ministry, to which we have already moved. It will be a normal, ordinary, routine meeting of our mission.

[Diaz] **What emergency measures will the FAN adopt following the election?**

[Barroso Fuenmayor] The measures have already been adopted, prior to the 5 December election. The process consists of three phases: before, during, and after the elections. These measures have always been, are, and will be in effect, but if you are refering to the post-electoral phase, as you say...well, we are keeping those measures under wraps. You must take into consideration that that phase is perhaps the most dangerous. However, we can assure the Venezuelan people that there will be no difficulties. Pertinent, discretionary measures will be adopted and their execution will be aimed at immediately ensuring the operational capability of the FAN, which is here to serve the Venezuelan people. The Venezuelan people, in turn, should have confidence in their FAN's resolve to struggle for their well-being.

Radical Cause Candidate Returns From, Discusses Europe, U.S. Tour

PA2210174393 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 18 Oct 93 p 2

[Text] Andres Velasquez, Radical Cause Party candidate, has said that the interest demonstrated by government, parliamentary, political, and private sectors in the United States and Europe ratify our conviction that they expect Radical Cause to win the 5 December elections.

This was stated by Velasquez upon his arrival at Maiquetia Airport last night from Paris, where he concluded his five-day working tour of Europe. As soon as he arrived at Maiquetia, the Radical Cause candidate and the National Enlisted [Voluntariado Nacional] "Venezuelans with Andres Velasquez" departed for Puerto Ordaz to begin, as of yesterday, a two-day tour of Bolivar State.

Velasquez said: In Europe, as in the United States at the end of July, we spoke out in a clear and straightforward manner. The Americans and the Europeans already know what to expect from me and from the Radical Cause Party when we take over on 2 February 1994.

Andres Velasquez explained that they had spoken clearly and coherently with government, parliament, political, and private sectors in Germany, Italy, and France last week, as they did in late July in Washington and in New York, and presented our political project for a new Venezuela and our government's plan of action. Today this is in the hands of the Venezuelan voters.

He added: To the European and the U.S. investors I have guaranteed very clear rules of the game. There will be political stability and legal security, all based on bilateral reciprocal benefits.

During his European tour, Andres Velasquez spoke with governments and parliamentaries of Germany (Bonn), Italy (Rome), and France (Paris), as well as with political and private economic sectors.

We Will Collaborate With the Italian Anti-Corruption Judge

The Radical Cause candidate announced that he had made a commitment in his name and that of Radical Cause to cooperate with "the excellent investigation that Antonio di Pietro, judge in the Italian Countercorruption Program "Clean Hands," has undertaken.

Judge Antonio di Prieto's work is an example of respectability, decency, and morality for the whole world.

Antonio di Prieto, the famous judge, held a special one-hour meeting with Andres Velasquez, who travelled from Rome to Milan for this purpose.

Our victory is irreversible, Velasquez noted. We are going to win. Tendencies indicate that the majority of voters, particularly the undecided, are envisioning a true change, which is what we represent. The other candidates represent the old, corrupt, and failed manner of rule. They represent the past; we represent the future.

This is how Andres Velasquez ended his tour to Europe and the United States.

Candidate Velazquez Appeals for Support

PA2310020293 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0150 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Speech by Radical Cause presidential candidate Andres Velazquez at the Caracas Forum in Caracas, date not given—recorded]

[Text] Countrymen, in speaking to you here today, I would like to say that we have seen 35 years of the same thing: 35 years of corruption; 35 years of partisan perversion; 35 years of hegemony in political leadership; and 35 years of intervention in all aspects of society by the top leaders of the political parties. [video shows Velazquez standing at podium, addressing Caracas Forum in front of a backdrop featuring Radical Cause party symbols]

These 35 years have distorted of our version of democracy and real democracy, resulting in a degeneration of the democratic process, which has been reduced to a meaningless five-year event, and now we even have the three-year elections for governors and mayors—elections in which the people need to be coaxed to merely go behind a black curtain for five minutes in order to vote. In Venezuela, the democratic ideal has been reduced to nothing more than this.

These have been 35 years of wasting money and enjoying privileges—35 years of bad governments. Now, they want to extend these 35 years to 40 years. This is what they want, and, therefore, they are desperately trying to remain in power. They believe the Venezuelan people are immune to change, that they have the patience of a rock, and that they will never react.

Nevertheless, the results are in. The Venezuelans have been the main players in several very important events in recent years. They cried out to the world on 27 February about the democratic lie we were living and about the lack of equality. They cried even louder during the 4 February and 27 November events. The Venezuelans dared to take public pressure into the streets with their pots and pans until they managed to dislodge a corrupt leader. This is what our people dared to do. They have even resisted provocations that only sought violence—provocations such as letter bombs, car bombs, and the never ending rumors of coups. The Venezuelan people have stood up against this and not succumb to provocation. After all this, after the people have carried out all these actions, they deserve the top prize. They deserve to cash in on their efforts.

After having denounced all of this, no one could conceive, whether here or in the rest of the world, that Claudio Fermin, Osvaldo Alvarez Paz, or Rafael Caldera would be allowed to continue leading the government. No one would understand such a thing, because the people have rebelled specifically against their way of doing politics. No one would understand this. Having completed this effort, now comes the time for justice. Now is the time to cash in. This is the most important thing at this time, and it is within this context that I wish to give my message.

The other three candidates who are participating in this forum have nothing to fall back on when trying to convince the people to vote form them. They cannot. There is no way they can. They should not even try—just as the case of a candidate who looks like he is about to jump out of the television screen in his efforts to woo the people [laughter in the background]—not even that one—or the ones who use trite slogans and popular words like "Onward, by golly!" to confuse the people; not even those who claim "Chiripa [small, pesky cockroach; also, term used in 1993 elections to describe the small, hardy opposition parties that support Rafael Caldera's presidential bid] will defeat the ruling clique," which is even more absurd in Venezuelan politics. These things tell us absolutely nothing. Nothing! Not one of

them has anything to fall back on in his efforts to ask for the people for their votes. They cannot do it. They cannot present themselves as witch doctors who can cure a disease which they, themselves, have created. This is the situation we currently face.

Obviously, these final minutes are being used to issue an appeal to those indifferent, apathetic people who do not believe in the process. I ask them not to stay at home on 5 December. Participate in any way you can in this great effort. There are many reasons, even motivations, to feel indifferent, but, nevertheless, the Venezuelan people are demanding a pledge—even the situation of the country demands it. What I have said here is essentially that we must share a pledge with the people, and, of course, we must validate the challenge we accepted when we went out and toured the country to see whether we could provoke a political change—a change that needs to be provoked right now without delay. When I go out and meet people, I do not merely repeat what I have validated in my pledge. I also do what I want to do this evening—namely, to ask you to make a pledge; to ask the viewers and you to make a pledge to the people in general to support our current efforts.

This is what we want to tell you: No one must surrender. Now is time to get even. Only the politicians have enjoyed the benefits until now. The ones who have ruled, the members of the corrupt political class, have been enjoying the benefits of our efforts, hopes, and faith. We, of course, have paid dearly for the support we have given them by paying for public services, an education system, and health services that do not work. Nevertheless, I believe the time has come for us to get even. Help us. This is the proposal we want to make. Help us get even this time. Corruption cannot be rewarded; corruption must be punished; and the Venezuelan people must understand this. It is not possible, after all we have had to withstand, that we should now come out and hit a feeble pop fly, as is popularly said. We must definitely hit a game-winning home run, because that is what the Venezuelan people expect.

In conclusion, the people must deal with the whole situation we have had to withstand—a situation caused by poor governments and crises—by deciding to change things. Tonight, I proudly ask this: Help us in order that one of us, one of you—a worker of the country—assumes control of the country and assumes the country's leadership. I can say I am one of you because I can proudly state that I do not have to don a worker's jacket or a hard hat to disguise myself as a worker, because I am a worker. I do not have to don a checkered shirt to disguise myself as a young man, because I am a young man. We can perfectly personify the zeal, determination, courage, will, and efforts that must be exerted by the country to move forward. Obviously, I also identify with all people who work, without excluding professional groups, small businessmen, medium-sized businessmen, and large businessmen who have grown with the country based on their own efforts. This is the appeal we issue to all of Venezuela—an appeal to make a pledge to help us and support us. This history cannot be extended to 40 years. Thirty-five years is long enough.

All I ask you is to dare. All I ask of my country is for help in changing this dark and gloomy political history. Comrades, Venezuela is our cause. Venezuela is our cause, and we will win in December.

Journalist Insists Defense Minister Knows Coup Planners

PA2410164393 Paris AFP in Spanish 1526 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Caracas, 24 Oct (AFP)—Journalist Jose Vicente Rangel insisted today on his television program "Jose Vicente Today" that Vice Admiral Radames Munoz, Venezuelan defense minister, knows the names of four generals who were planning a coup attempt.

Rangel made the remark during his program last week, prompting the defense minister to order a prompt investigation during which the journalist and Munoz himself were summoned to testify.

Munoz appeared at the military courts yesterday and answered a questionnaire, the contents of which were not disclosed, while Rangel has been summoned to the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DIM) but has not yet gone there to testify.

Nevertheless, on his program today Rangel maintained that he never said he knew the names of the alleged coupist generals but that he had asserted that the defense minister knows who they are.

"I was referring to information that is in the defense minister's hands, not in mine," the journalist said.

After saying that he does not intend to "evade his responsibilities," Rangel said that Munoz had attempted to unleash a controversy over his remarks, and he accused the vice admiral of behaving like a "showgirl."

"The minister has been intoxicated by his own words and has decided to pick a fight with me in an attempt to consolidate his leadership within the Armed Forces and improve his image," Rangel said.

"I do not believe the minister is interested in investigating the coupists. He is planning a political career," Rangel said.

In 1992 Venezuela suffered two violent military coup attempts against now deposed social democratic [as received] President Carlos Andres Perez. Midway through 1993 rumors of renewed destabilization efforts have become increasingly intense as a result of attacks with explosives, which have finally been resolved by the police, who attribute them to financial speculators. Since then, the rumors had waned until Rangel denounced the new conspiracy.

Courts Rule on Money Laundering, Terrorism Cases

PA2310045593 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Report by Daniel Lombana for "The News" newscast]

[Text] Judge Mildred Camero asked the banking superintendency to implement control and supervision measures on branches of the Provincial, Internacional, Venezuela, Maracaibo, Tequendama, and Bancor banks located on the border with Colombia.

Judge Camero also ordered the implementation of control measures on all currency exchange firms in San Antonio del Tachira and Urena. Similar measures were also requested for action against five international financial institutions.

With respect to the arrest warrants, Judge Camero disclosed the names of 20 [as heard] persons involved in this money laundering case.

[Begin Camero recording] Juan Jose Sayago, Jaime Joristel Sayago, Henry Sayago, Jaime Franklyn Sayago, Jaime Endover Sayago, Maria De Luz Rivera Alveares, Carlos Enrique Para Chacon, Jove Carrillo, Juan Crisostomo, Hugo Enrique Rangel, Isidoro Vicente Canejo Romero, Marcelino Reyes Mesa, Spadasoga Reyes Alvear, Jose Ignacio Ferocio Goyo, Luis Augusto Hernandez, Sinforoso Caballero, Edgar Camargo, Juan Claudio Morales, Armando Caballero, Avelina Diaz Rey, and Esau Manuel Baraja. [end recording]

Several hours earlier, 42d Court Penal Judge Noel Vera Sandoval ordered the arrest of 12 persons involved in the financial terrorism case.

[Begin Vera recording] [Words indistinct] against citizens Ramiro Francisco Helmeyer Quevedo, charged with continuous intimidation against the public [intimidacion al publico en grado de continuidad] included and penalized per Article 297 related to Article 99 of the Penal Code; continuous damage to buildings as included in Article 344 related to Article 99, both included in the Penal Code; accessory to the fact as included in Article 287 of the Penal Code; attempted homicide included in Article 408 related to Article 80 of the Penal Code; possession and concealment of illegal weapons; and willful homicide concealment as included in Article 255 and related to Article 407.

Thor Halvorssen Helum, charged with continuous intimidation against the public, continuous damage against buildings, attempted homicide.

Alberto Cabrises, charged with supplying and manufacturing weapons as included in Article 297, accessory to an attempted murder. Jose Gregorio Hernandez Villegas, charged with intentional murder as established in Article 407; accessory in supplying explosives. Gustavo Rafael Abrego Acosta, charged with supplying explosive material. Pablo Figueroa Marin, charged with supplying explosive material and misappropriation.

(Pablo Denis Osorio), charged with supplying explosives material.

(Julio Requena Pelucarte), charged with theft.

Walter Alexander del Nogal, charged with continuous intimidation against the public; continuous damage to buildings; collusion; attempted homicide; accessory to the fact; use of an illegal passport; abetted theft.

Jorge Enrique Moreno Hinojoza, charged with attempted homicide; intimidation against the public. Emilio de Jesus Correa Rubiano, charged with theft. Alberto Chuecos, charged with accessory to the fact. [end recording]

The judge also decided that inquiries should continue to determine the possible participation of Andres Rodriguez, Danilo Diaz Granado, (Gustavo Macera Fong), (Jose Belutines), Oliver Torres, Romulo Lopez, Andres Level, Carlos Acosta and (Juan Carlos Escotet) in the incidents under investigation.

In any case, it is expected that the persons involved in the terrorist attack will be transferred to the courts either Monday or Tuesday of next week to be formally charged.